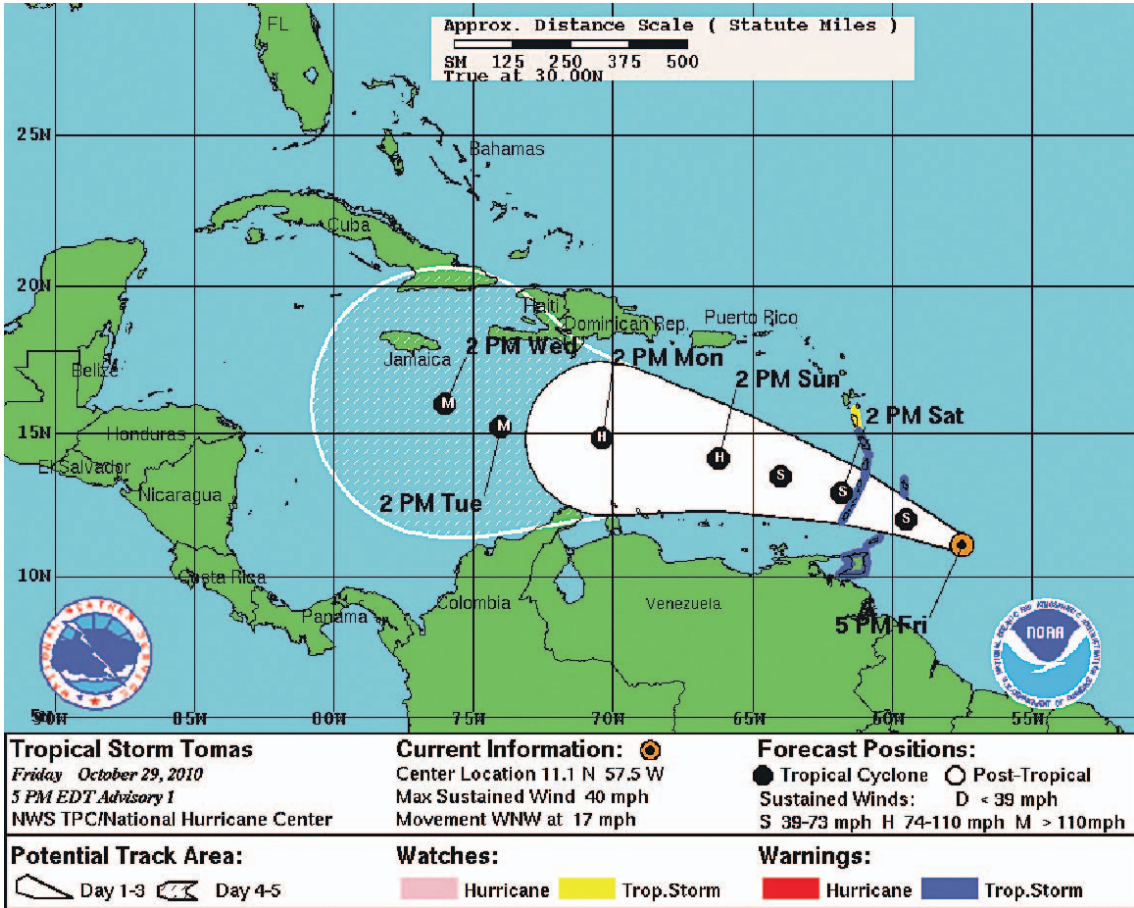


Forecast to be a major hurricane

# Tropical Storm Tomas is born



In a rare burst of late October activity, Tropical Storm Tomas emerged in the Atlantic near the Windward Islands on Friday afternoon. The system is forecast to arrive in the central Caribbean by next Wednesday as a major hurricane.

At 5 p.m. on Friday, Tomas was 200 miles southeast of Barbados, moving northwest at 17 mph with sustained winds of 40 mph.

In becoming the 19th named storm of the season, Tomas made this the third busiest year on record, tied with 1887 and 1995. The only years that were busier: 1933, with 21 storms and 2005 with 28 storms.

Under the initial forecast, subject to large error, Tomas would aim northwest through the Caribbean, generally toward Jamaica over the next five days.

It would grow into a hurricane by Sunday and

a Category 3 hurricane with sustained winds of 115 mph by Tuesday.

Whether the system will pose a threat to Florida or the rest of the U.S. coastline, it's too early to say, forecasters said.

Tropical storm warnings have been issued for several of the southern Windward Islands, as Tomas threatens to produce up to 8 inches of rain as well as coastal flooding along its path.

Meanwhile, a bulked up Tropical Storm Shary was closing in on Bermuda on Friday afternoon, threatening to pelt the small island nation with heavy rains and gusty winds.

At 5 p.m., Shary was about 95 miles south of Bermuda, moving northeast at 13 mph with sustained winds of 65 mph.

After passing over or near the island nation, Shary is expected to turn northeast and head out to sea.□



## Obama: Terror explosives found, bound for U.S.

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama declared Friday that authorities had uncovered a “credible terrorist threat” against the United States following the overseas discovery of U.S.-bound packages containing explosives aboard cargo jets. Obama said both had been addressed to Jewish organizations in the Chicago area.

The disclosures triggered a worldwide alert amid fears that al-Qaida was attempting to carry out fresh terror attacks.

The events “underscore the necessity of remaining vigilant against terrorism,” the president said. The packages both originated in Yemen, but Obama did not explicitly assign blame to al-Qaida, which is active in the Arab nation and long has made clear its goal of attacking the United States.

The events unfolded four days before national elections in which discussion of terrorism has played almost no role.

Obama stepped to the podium in the hours after officials disclosed that authorities in Dubai intercepted an explosive device bound for a Chicago-area Jewish institution. The second package was aboard a plane searched in England, and officials said it contained a printer toner cartridge with wires and powder. That second package was aboard a plane in East Midlands, north of London.

Obama did not identify any institution that had been targeted.

Several other cargo planes at airports along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States also were searched, and officials said no explosives were found. An Emirates Airlines passenger jet carrying cargo from Yemen was escorted from the Canadian border to New York City by two military fighter jets, U.S. officials said. They said it was a precautionary action.

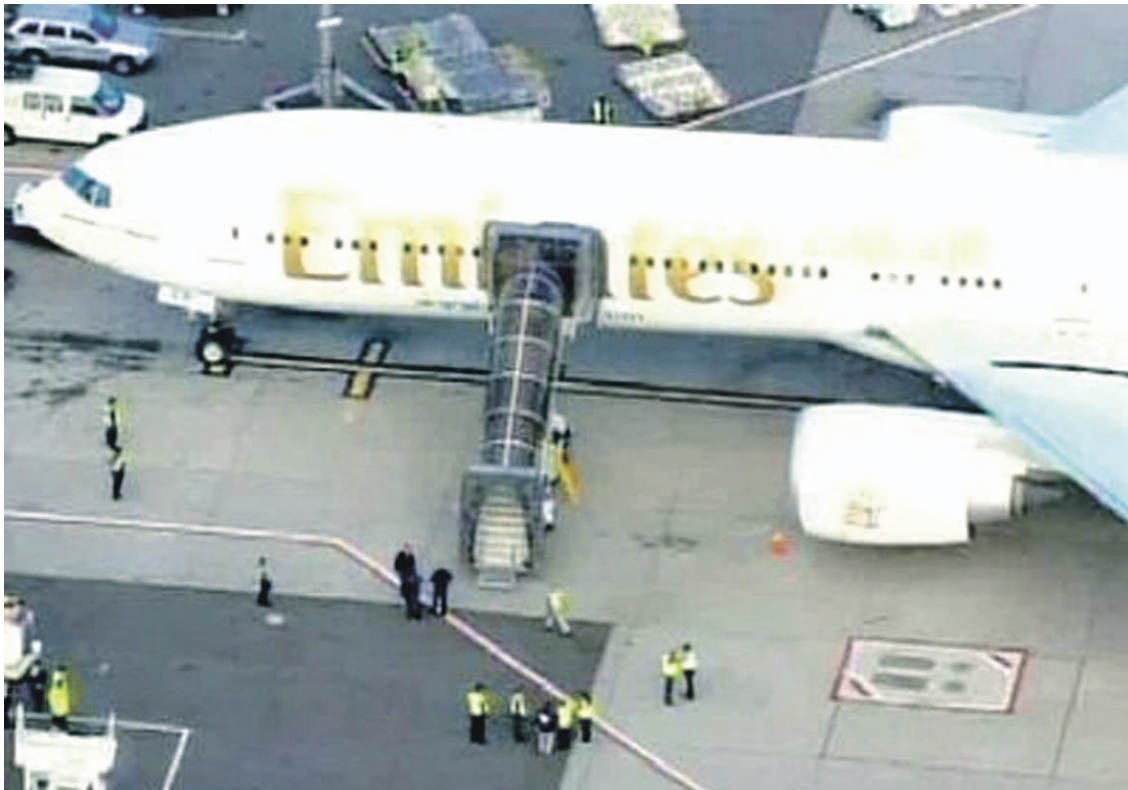
An FBI spokesman in Chicago, Ross Rice, said both suspicious packages had been sent from the same address in Yemen. The president refrained from assigning blame to Yemen’s al-Qaida branch, but officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said they were increasingly certain that was the source. The same group was responsible for the attempted bombing of a U.S.-bound airliner last Christmas.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the ongoing investigation.

White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan later told reporters that the explosives “were in a form that was designed to try to carry out some type of attack,” but he provided no further details. “The forensic analysis is under way,” he said, adding, “Clearly from the initial observation, the initial analysis that was done, the materials that were found in the device that was uncovered was intended to do harm.”□



# Jet carrying Yemen cargo lands at JFK after escort



NEW YORK – A commercial passenger jet carrying cargo from Yemen was escorted from the Canadian border to New York City by two military fighter jets amid global scrutiny of packages sent from the Middle Eastern

country. U.S. officials said there was no known threat associated with the plane, but it was escorted to John F. Kennedy International Airport as a precaution.

Authorities on Friday were investigating whether

suspicious packages shipped aboard cargo planes from Yemen to the U.S. were part of a terrorist plot.

The plane, a Boeing 777, landed shortly after 3:30 p.m. Passengers walked off the jet on two covered stairways and

then onto the tarmac, dragging their luggage behind them. Several police cars surrounded the airliner. FBI spokesman Richard Kolko said the plane Emirates Airlines Flight 201 was met by FBI and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police. He said the action was being taken solely because the plane, which took off from Dubai, was also carrying cargo from Yemen.

“The single piece of cargo will be examined. There is no known threat associated with this cargo,” Kolko said.

Emirates said in a brief statement that it was “cooperating fully with the U.S. authorities” and would provide more information as soon as it has it available.

The flight crew didn’t inform passengers of any issue with cargo while they were onboard, passenger Nick Chan said.

“We saw a lot of police and they instructed us that we would be getting on a bus.

And that all our luggage would again be screened,” said Chan, who was returning to Manhattan from a business trip.

Chan, 32, said passengers didn’t know about the interest in their aircraft until they saw it on TV screens in the airport. Earlier Friday, cargo jets in Philadelphia and Newark, N.J., were searched for possible suspicious packages from Yemen. No explosives were found.

U.S. fighter jets routinely escort airliners when there may be a problem in order to observe the aircraft and be prepared to take any action if necessary.

John Cornelia, a spokesman for U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command, said the Emirates airliner was escorted by a Canadian fighter based in Bagotville, Quebec, to the U.S. border, where two U.S. fighters from the Barnes Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts took over. □



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# 2 wildfires prompt evacuations in Boulder, Colo.

By CATHERINE TSAI  
P. SOLOMON BANDA,  
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Two wildfires in Boulder County threatened the homes of at least 1,700 people Friday, prompting evacuations in the city of Boulder and the neighboring foothills.

Three subdivisions in the foothills were evacuated Friday morning shortly after the wildfires were first reported, and authorities issued emergency phone calls to 181 numbers. Officials later ordered evacuations for a portion of Boulder's west side, where about 1,700 people live.

Two medical buildings and the municipal courthouse were also evacuated.

"We are asking that residents follow the directions of emergency crews now so that emergency equipment can be positioned and crews can focus on extinguishing the wildfire," City Manager

Jane S. Brautigam said in a statement posted on Boulder's emergency website. "Resident and business cooperation is greatly appreciated as we work to contain this fire."

There was a smell of smoke on the campus of the University of Colorado in Boulder. Evacuees were being sent to the Coors Event Center at CU.

The fires, burning on about 20 acres on public open space land, are closer to the city than the wildfire that destroyed more than 160 houses in the foothills last month. That fire was the most destructive in Colorado history in terms of property damage.

About 60 firefighters were trying to contain Friday's blaze, and a single-engine air tanker was dropping fire retardant. Boulder County sheriff's Cmdr. Rick Brough said officials were asking for additional



A slurry bomber drops retardant on a burning ridge as the sun sets behind it as a wildfire burns west of Loveland, Colo., on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010.

(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)

resources.

Fire officials said the blaze isn't as dangerous as the September wildfire that burned 10 square miles, because the winds were calmer Friday.

"A lot's going to depend on the weather at this point," Brough said. There were no immediate reports of power outages, injuries or damage to buildings, he said.

The National Weather

Service issued a red flag warning for the area until 6 p.m., meaning critical fire conditions exist. The weather service said wind gusts of up to 40 mph were possible. □

# Judge orders test on Halliburton cement in BP well



Preparations to drill a relief well at the Macondo oil spill site in the Gulf of Mexico, August 21, 2010

NEW ORLEANS — A federal judge is ordering tests to be performed as soon as possible on cement Halliburton Co. used to seal the BP well that blew out catastrophically in the Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier said some of the components may be "deteriorating over time" and that tests should be done "as soon as reasonably practicable." Barbier is overseeing lawsuits filed after the BP-leased rig Deepwater Horizon exploded April 20, killing 11 workers and setting off a massive oil spill.

Halliburton's cementing work on the well has jumped to the forefront of investigations into the explosion.

On Thursday, the president's oil spill commission said tests performed before the blowout should have raised doubts about the cement used to seal the well.



# ouch!

## DISCRIMINATION DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST HIV... IT HURTS



# Retired chaplains warn against 'don't ask' repeal



**FILE** -In this Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2005 file photo, Mikey Weinstein looks over paperwork in his Albuquerque, N.M., home. Dozens of retired military chaplains say that serving both God and the U.S. armed forces will become impossible for chaplains whose faiths consider homosexuality a sin if the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy is thrown out.

(AP Photo/Jake Schoellkopf)

By **TOM BREEN**,  
Associated Press

Dozens of retired military chaplains say that serving both God and the U.S. armed forces will become impossible for chaplains whose faiths consider homosexuality a sin if the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is thrown out.

If a chaplain preaches against homosexuality, he could conceivably be disciplined as a bigot under the military's nondiscrimination policy, the retired chaplains say. The Pentagon, however, says chaplains' religious beliefs and their need to express them will be respected.

Clergy would be ineligible to serve as chaplains if their churches withdraw their endorsements, as some have threatened to do if "don't ask, don't tell" ends. Critics of allowing openly gay troops fear that clergy will leave the service or be forced to find other jobs in the military that don't involve their faiths.

"The bottom line is religious freedom," said retired Army Brig. Gen. Douglas Lee, one of 65 former chaplains who signed a letter urging President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates to keep "don't ask, don't tell."

A federal judge threw out the policy this month, but it remains in effect while the federal government appeals the ruling. Under the 1993 law, the military cannot inquire into service members' sexual orientation and punish

them for it as long as they keep it to themselves. Obama favors repealing the law but wants it done by Congress. Opponents of the ban argue that military chaplains have a different job than ministering to a parish where everyone shares the same beliefs. They must respect all faiths and counsel all service members, from devout Muslims to atheists.

"My heart doesn't bleed for these chaplains," said Mikey Weinstein, president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. "If you don't like it, there's a very simple solution: Fold your uniform, file the paperwork and find something else to do."

Officials at North Carolina's sprawling Fort Bragg Army post and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board did not respond to requests to interview active military chaplains about the issue. The group of retired chaplains who wrote the letter to Obama and Gates said they were speaking out because active chaplains could be accused of insubordination if they publicly oppose repealing "don't ask, don't tell."

"Many (if not most) chaplains will confront a profoundly difficult moral choice: whether they are to obey God or to obey men," they wrote in the Sept. 16 letter.

The Department of Defense has not said specifically how it would address any potential conflicts with chaplains stemming from

the end of "don't ask, don't tell," but Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said the military would not force chaplains to keep their beliefs silent. "Chaplains are allowed to speak according to the dictates of their faith," she said.

"With great acumen, chaplains, throughout the Department's history, have found means wherein they could strike a balance between faith group requirements and Department of Defense needs," Lainez said. "Members who feel something is inappropriate may always utilize their chain of command, the inspector general or other systems already in place, to address their concerns."

Members of the clergy have been ministering to American troops since the Revolution. There are about 3,000 chaplains on active duty, most from theologically conservative faiths and organizations.

In the Army, the U.S. military's largest branch, the largest denomination is the Southern Baptist Convention, with roughly 450 active chaplains. Next is the Roman Catholic Church, with 270, followed by chaplains from the Full Gospel Pentecostal church; Presbyterian and Reformed churches; and Assemblies of God.

A spokeswoman for the Pentagon said chaplains must have the endorsement of their church or religious organization to serve the role. If a chaplain's church withdraws its endorsement, the military begins processing the chaplain to leave the military.

Several denominations have already threatened to take such a step, citing long lists of potential conflicts the chaplains could face with openly gay soldiers.

The Southern Baptist Convention, the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church in America, the Presbyterian Church in America, and the Rabbinical Alliance of America have issued statements or written

to the Obama administration this year with their concerns that repealing "don't ask, don't tell" could force their chaplains to choose between serving God and serving the military.

The Orthodox Church in America, for example, condemns homosexuality and mandates that the appropriate action its ministers should take toward gay people who seek counseling is to steer them to repent and renounce the gay lifestyle.

"If such an attitude were regarded as 'prejudice' or the denunciation of homosexuality as 'hate language,' or the like, we would be forced to pull out our chaplains from military service," the church informed the Pentagon in May.

The Catholic Church likewise deems homosexual behavior a sin.

"This means that Catholic chaplains must show compassion for persons with a homosexual orientation, but can never condone — even silently — homosexual behavior," Archbishop Timothy Broglio said in a June letter calling for "don't ask" to remain in place.

Broglio leads the Archdiocese for Military Services and is the church's chief liaison to the military.

"A change might have a negative effect on the role of the chaplain not only in the pulpit, but also in the classroom, in the barracks, and in the office," Broglio wrote.

Every officer in the military, including chaplains, is evaluated in an annual report. One criterion is whether the officer supports the military's equal opportunity policy. If gays and lesbians are included in that policy, careers of chaplains who criticize homosexuality could suffer.

"As a chaplain, on religious grounds, I could not support that, meaning that as a chaplain, I'm going to face consequences," said retired Col. David Upchurch, a former Army chaplain who is now a minister at Grace

Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, Kan.

The retired chaplains' letter raises numerous potential conflicts facing conservative chaplains:

- As the administrators of the Army's Strong Bonds program for marriages strained by military life, would chaplains have to begin including same-sex couples?

- Would a chaplain be forced to allow gay soldiers to assist with lay duties at religious services?

- If chaplains must be available to counsel personal problems for all soldiers, will they have to remain silent on their views about homosexuality?

Retired Navy chaplain Capt. John Gundlach, a United Church of Christ pastor, supports repealing the policy and doesn't foresee the problems envisioned by some of his conservative colleagues.

"They may run into some difficulties in not being able to speak out against those who are gay or lesbian in the military, because that would be counter to good order and discipline," he said. "But chaplains have the right to preach according to their tradition in worship services they hold for those of their own denomination."

A good military chaplain must minister to everyone, said Diane Mazur, a retired Air Force captain and University of Florida Law Professor who specializes in interaction between civilian and military law.

"It's really very different than in the civilian world, and repealing 'don't ask, don't tell' doesn't really change that basic difference."

Lee, however, said homosexuality creates a conflict that does not exist for chaplains even when they work with members of radically different faiths. In those cases, chaplains help service members get what they need to hold religious services but do not perform any ceremonies outside their own religious tradition. □



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# Clinton denies asking Fla. Dem to drop Senate bid

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.** – Former President Bill Clinton on Friday denied reports confirmed by his spokesman a day earlier that he asked Democrat Kendrick Meek to drop out of the three-way Florida Senate race to clear the way for independent Gov. Charlie Crist.

Meek says he's not dropping out, and even if he did it would likely be too late to make a difference. Nearly two million people have already voted and his name would still be on the ballot Tuesday.

Several prominent black Democrats said they believe the fuss is backfiring on Crist and energizing black voters to go to the polls to support Meek, who is black.

Both men trail tea party-backed Republican Marco Rubio, though Meek was in last place according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday that showed Rubio with 42 percent of the vote to 35 percent for Crist and 15 percent for Meek. To win, Crist needs at least some of the Democrats who plan to vote for Meek.

"When one of ours has been given the short end of the stick, we tend to rise up, sort of like with Obama," said state Rep. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, referring to her recollection of Obama's win in the South



Carolina primary after Clinton said voters should pick his wife. "My God, the flood gates had opened. It's going to happen again with Kendrick Meek."

In Jacksonville, Sen. Tony Hill, who once staged a sit-in with Meek in then-Gov. Jeb Bush's office complex to protest a plan to do away with affirmative action policies, was outside an early voting site and said he had never seen it so crowded.

"I've gotten calls from people saying 'What's happening? Is he in the race?' and I say 'He's in it to win it,'" Hill said.

Meek is accusing Crist of starting rumors that Clinton, his longtime friend, tried to get him to drop out.

"Charlie Crist is trying

to win by any means necessary," Meek said. "Don't let that smile fool you."

Meek said Friday that during Clinton's swing through Florida to campaign for him and other candidates last week, the former president asked him about reports that he was considering leaving the race.

"I never said I was considering getting out. I said, 'Mr. President, that is not true,'" Meek said before an event in Orlando. "That was that. I never once told him, 'Hey, I'm thinking of getting out.'"

Clinton said in a statement Friday that he had talked to Meek about the race and its challenges.

"I didn't ask Kendrick to leave the race, nor

did Kendrick say that he would," Clinton said. "I told him that how he proceeds was his decision to make and that I would support him regardless."

A day earlier, Clinton spokesman Matt McKenna had confirmed a Politico report that Clinton tried to talk Meek into quitting.

Crist, campaigning in Panama City, acknowledged he spoke to Clinton aides about the race, but said he didn't initiate any discussions about Meek dropping out.

"I'm not going to get into a 'he said, she said' kind of thing. That's silly. What matters is the people of Florida have to make a decision," Crist said.

This isn't the first time Crist opponents have been the

subject of dropout rumors. In 2006, rumors were floated that Tom Gallagher was going to drop out of the gubernatorial primary for the good of the Republican Party. He didn't. Last year, a top GOP official made phone calls saying Rubio was going to drop out of the Senate primary and run for attorney general. Rubio didn't, and Crist eventually left the party to run as an independent when he fell behind Rubio in the polls. State Rep. Luis Garcia, a former Florida Democratic Party vice chairman, said if Meek was going to drop out, he should have done it weeks ago.

"It's kind of late in the game," said Garcia, who endorsed Crist. "The early voting is taking place, the absentee ballots are in, so I don't know how effective it would be right now."

While not directly mentioning Crist, Rubio, a former House speaker, used the story to take a shot at him.

"If you ever needed a reminder of what's wrong with American politics today, this story is a great reminder of backdoor deals. That's what's got us some of this bad public policy that's putting America on the wrong track. That's what got us Obamacare," Rubio said after visiting an Original Pancake House in Palm Beach Gardens. □



# Jury recommends death in Fla. ninja slaying

By MELISSA NELSON,  
Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — A former karate instructor should be put to death for leading a group of men dressed like ninjas to rob and kill a wealthy Florida couple while their nine special-needs children slept or cowered nearby, a jury recommended Friday.

The jurors voted 10-2 to recommend that Patrick Gonzalez Jr. be executed for the slayings of Byrd and Melanie Billings. They were known for adopting children with special needs.

Some of the couple's relatives appeared happy, though others showed no emotion when the recommendation was announced. Gonzalez had no reaction.

Under Florida law, the final sentence will be imposed by Judge Nickolas Geeker, who must give the recommendation "great weight."

Earlier in the day, State Attorney Bill Eddins told jurors that Gonzalez continued to torment Melanie Billings after shooting her husband in each leg and in the head. "He let her stand there and watch him shoot her husband down like a dog," Eddins said. "That is obviously cruel and unusual punishment."

He suggested that Melanie Billings' last thoughts before she died must have been whether the men would turn their guns on the children. The children were not hurt.

The jury of 11 women and one man convicted Gonzalez of two counts of first-degree murder and one count of home-invasion robbery late Thursday after half a day of deliberations. The jurors began considering their sentencing recommendation on Friday.

Gonzalez appeared in court in handcuffs, watched by six uniformed and armed deputies.

He had been subdued throughout much of the trial but became agitated during closing statements. He twisted in his chair, pointed at his attorney with his cuffed



Leonard Patrick Gonzalez, Jr.  
Dob: 01/11/74



Leonard Patrick Gonzalez, Sr.  
Dob: 02/23/53



Wayne Thomas Coldiron  
Dob: 06/13/68



Gary Lamont Sumner  
Dob: 09/22/76

Juvenile



Frederick Lee Thornton  
Dob: 02/16/90



Donald Ray Stallworth  
Dob: 04/18/81

**FILE - These July 14, 2009, booking photos provided by the Escambia County Sheriff Department in Pensacola, Fla., show suspects in the home invasion and murder of Byrd and Melanie Billings who were found shot to death July 9, 2009. From top left: Leonard Patrick Gonzalez Jr., Leonard Patrick Gonzalez Sr., Wayne Thomas Coldiron, Gary Lamont Sumner, a juvenile whom police did not identify; Frederick Lee Thornton Jr., 19; and Donnie Ray Stallworth, 28, who was arrested in Alabama but lives in Florida.**

(AP Photo/Escambia Sheriff's Department, File)

hands and was animated while whispering with another of his attorneys.

After jurors left the courtroom and Gonzalez was being led away in handcuffs, he pointed his fingers at two photographers — one for True TV and another for the Pensacola News Journal.

"I cannot wait to say goodbye to you and to you," he said, according to the photographers.

Earlier Friday, Gonzalez told Geeker that he did not want his wife and mother to testify on his behalf. After conferring with his attorneys, he reluctantly changed his mind.

Gonzalez said he had been tried and convicted by the press and didn't want his relatives subjected to media scrutiny. Gonzalez asked that his family be allowed to testify without the media present, but Geeker denied the request, saying the trial was open to the public.

Pointing at Gonzalez, defense attorney Randall Etheridge asked jurors to spare his client's life. He said Gonzalez had done good things in the

past, including teaching karate to many young children and being a good father.

"A vote for life doesn't diminish his responsibility for what he did," Etheridge said. He handed jurors a photograph of Gonzalez, his wife and their six children and then named each of the jurors and told them that any one of them could make the difference between life and death for his client.

Gonzalez's mother, Terry Poff, asked jurors to "look into their hearts" when deciding whether to recommend death for her son.

Poff said that her son was diagnosed at a young age with a behavior disorder but that he excelled at karate and quickly became a black belt. She said he struggled with a prescription painkiller addiction in later years.

His wife, Tabitha Gonzalez, testified that his addiction to drugs and alcohol changed his personality. □

## Tapes recount drama of crash response

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Radio transmissions released by the Federal Aviation Administration show snippets of the frantic rescue efforts that unfolded after a floatplane slammed into a remote mountainside in southwest Alaska, killing former U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens and four others.

At one point, a pilot surveying the wreckage urged an FAA flight operator to get a rescue helicopter to the steep slope "immediately, immediately, fast." Another pilot said survivors would be exceedingly difficult to reach by foot because a private helicopter had to land 500 feet above the crash site in the rugged terrain.

"I don't know that they're going to be able to get anybody up the hill if they're seriously injured. We really need a really real search-and-rescue helicopter out here with medical personnel if there's any way we can do that a-sap," he said.

The three hours of recorded transmissions were obtained by The Associated Press through a records request regarding the Aug. 9 crash north of Dillingham.

Conversations were redacted in some places, so there are gaps in the chain of events that culminated in the rescue of four survivors, including former NASA chief Sean O'Keefe and his 19-year-old son, Kevin O'Keefe.

Moments into the recording, the worried manager of a corporate lodge hosting the 86-year-old Stevens and other guests called

the Dillingham flight operator, Carl Lang, to report the 1957 DeHavilland DHC-3 Otter plane had failed to show up at a remote fishing camp. At the time of the call, the single-engine Otter was almost four hours overdue.

The lodge manager, David Roseman, said he would make one more call and get back to Lang shortly. By the time he called back about 15 minutes later, Lang had begun asking local pilots to check the half-hour route between the lodge and camp.

"I wonder if, ah, if we could go ahead and put a search and rescue into effect," Roseman said.

For almost an hour, local pilots found no sign of the aircraft. Then the lines crackled with the first concrete news.

"Yes, I've got coordinates on the downed aircraft," said the pilot of a plane registered to Ron Duncan, president of General Communication Inc., the phone and Internet company that owned the lodge and the Otter. In the plane with Duncan was his wife, Anchorage-based pediatrician Dani Bowman, who wanted to reach the site herself to tend to the injured survivors.

"The helicopter has the wreckage in sight, says there's at least one survivor waving at them," Duncan radioed 10 minutes later.

"Any update on what's happening with search and rescue?"

"I called 911. We're trying to get additional air service out there," Lang said. □





## Amazonia reveals its holiday menu

**PALM BEACH** – This year the crew of Amazonia Churrascaria creatively offers a number of attractive Holiday Menus, for every pocket and every taste, beginning with just Awg 65 per person, inclusive.

Santa's Special for a minimum of 10 guests includes the restaurant's famous salad bar, and a plentiful meat selection escorted by side dishes, while Rudolph's Special for Awg 80- per person, also includes dessert, which are absolutely fabulous at Amazonia Churrascaria.

The Mistletoe Special, the Jingle Bell Special, the Christmas Carol Special, and the Golden Star Special all include their exclusive features and make the famous Palm Beach Brazilian-style steak house very attractive to big and small groups eating as little or as much as they wish. "This year," says marketing director Irma Bijen, "we customized our holiday selections and our reservation lines are open, so hurry up, some dates are still open."

The restaurant also makes gift certificates available designed to please meat-lovers among friends, employees and family members. Great food quality and genuine, warm hospitality make Amazonia Churrascaria a favorite all year long but the customized holiday selections make the restaurant especially appealing for year-end celebrations. □

*At La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club*

## Lunch Box presentation talks about cancer with the Wilhelmina Kankerfonds



**EAGLE BEACH** – Members of the extended La Cabana family were invited to a lunch box presentation in the conference room in which Lupina Croes of the Wilhelmina Cancer Foundation focused on disease with a special reference to Breast Cancer and the three pronged approach which includes self-examination, visits to the gynecologist and mammograms.

The session was interactive and interesting, and the colleagues learned that our knowledge of how cancer develops is expanding rapidly, however many aspects of the disease still remain a mystery.



The session also described the services provided by the Cancer Fund, named after Queen Wilhelmina



and suggested lifestyle changes, a healthy diet, and cautious use of selected antioxidants, exercise, and weight reduction which can also help reduce the incidence of developing cancer.

The session concluded that to date, the most important strategy in improving survival is screening and

early detection.

La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club also introduced an original fund raiser, offering all associate who wanted to contribute Awg. 5 to the Cancer Foundation, the privilege of wearing Jeans to work, and receiving a pink ribbon, says Tessely Koolman, Director of Human Resources. □





# Frank & Dolores Domzalski honored at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here,

are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort, the place they call their home away

from home. Frank & Dollres Domzalski were honored as Distinguished Visitors for the Island of Aruba after coming to Aruba for 16 wonderful years. Pictured: ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Rafael from the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort. □



## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

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12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

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### Driftwood Restaurant

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Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.





At La Bodega

# Luxury Armand de Brignac Champagne introduced in Aruba



ORANJESTAD -- Armand de Brignac, rated the #1 Champagne in the world, was introduced here to an intimate number of invitees, at La Bodega, on Gutenbergstraat,



on behalf of its local purveyor, Romar Trading.

Wine Artist Clive Faustin and Marketing Coordinator Jadira Sankatseny, welcomed their guests with an unusual and refreshing cocktail made with the French St-Germain liqueur, topped with Italian Prosecco and sparkling water. St Germain, a sweet and delicate liqueur is created in the artisanal French manner from freshly handpicked elderflower blossoms, and has also just arrived in Aruba.

The piece-de-resistance, the main event of the evening presented a generous tasting of Armand de Brignac Champagne, produced by the Cattier family and sold in opaque metallic bottles, presented in gorgeous boxes. The brand's first bottling, Armand de Brignac Brut Gold, is identifiable by its distinctive gold bottle with pewter Ace of Spades labels. The elite Champagne is favored by rock stars and international celebrities, and is characterized by very tiny bubbles, the result of artisanal blending of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay Premier Cru and Grand Premier Cru grapes.

Named the champagne for very special occasion, it is now available at Romar Trading and select restaurants with Papiamento and Texas de Brazil among them.

The exquisite champagne tasting was accompanied by French canapés topped with mousse de foie gras and pate aux champignons, raw tuna spring rolls with wakame salad, fresh lobster with mango, vanilla essence and micro greens, chocolate dipped strawberries and chocolate ganache truffles. Pictured here, the exclusive evening at La Bodega. □



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# Leaders that lead the way at the Westin Resort, Aruba



**PALM BEACH** - Last week, the managers and supervisors of The Westin Resort, Aruba gathered for a celebration to acknowledge some of the top leaders of the property during the third quarter of 2010. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres were enjoyed by all while nominated supervisors and managers were each applauded for exemplifying Westin Hotels & Resorts' philosophy to "redefine

efficient service with an effortless style and gracious attitude that ensures a truly unforgettable experience," and leading their associates and respective departments to do the same.

The winner for Supervisor of the 3rd Quarter was Juan Carlos Solis from the Front Office, for his passion and dedication, and innate leadership skills

that will take him very far in hospitality and guest service.

The Manager of the 3rd Quarter was Chido Geerman from Service Express, who is an expert in his position and has a continual thirst for knowledge and enjoys sharing that knowledge with his colleagues, creating an inclusive environment in his department.

Congratulations to all! □







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# Aqua Grill staff hones their wine knowledge with Pepia Est



**PALM BEACH** - The servers and bartenders of Aqua Grill restaurant in Palm Beach attended an eight-week wine course with Pepia Est, under the expert guidance of wine connoisseur Michael van den Berg. The staff of the island's critically-praised seafood restaurant increased their

knowledge of pairing seafood cuisine wine through practical smell and taste methods. The seminars also led the group through the exploration of main wine making countries. At the end of the eight weeks, a test was given to the staff, with top performer Yovanny Portes scoring 100% when



pairing grape varieties in a blind tasting, choosing a double magnum Chateau Ste Michelle Canoe Ridge Merlot and a bottle of Inniskillin Eiswein Gold. All attendees received their certificate from Michael van den Berg at Aqua Grill this past week, and from today are basic wine connoisseurs that are excited to share their knowledge with

the patrons of Aqua Grill. Aqua Grill has been awarded the Wine Spectators' Award of Excellence two years in a row, and boasts an impressive wine cellar of over 1000 bottles, with a selection from more than 100 different wines stored behind a fourteen-foot tall glass wine wall that doubles as part of the dynamic décor of the restaurant. □



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## U.S. and Russian forces team up for Afghan drug bust



In this July 26, 2010 file photo, Viktor Ivanov, head of the Russian anti-narcotics agency speaks at a news conference in Moscow. Ivanov said his agency cooperated closely with U.S. counterparts to organize a drug bust in Afghanistan, which ended Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010 and destroyed 2,050 pounds of heroin and 340 pounds of opium worth an estimated \$250 million.

**KATHARINE HOURELD**

**Associated Press**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Russian counternarcotics agents teamed up with U.S. and Afghan forces in an unprecedented joint raid that destroyed nearly \$56 million worth of heroin near the Pakistani border, officials said Friday.

The seizure of approximately 932 kilograms of heroin came less than a week after

Russia's anti-narcotics chief accused the U.S. of failing to dismantle Afghan drug labs and slow down the flow of heroin into Russia.

The amount seized in Thursday's raid in Nangarhar province is unlikely to have a significant impact on Afghanistan's drug trade. The country produces enough raw opium to manufacture 360 tons of heroin a year, according to the U.N. Office

on Drugs and Crime.

But the level of cooperation between U.S. and Russian forces was significant and suggested an improvement in relations between the former Cold War foes, two decades after U.S.-financed Afghan militias chased the Soviet military out of this country.

The two nations nowadays occasionally cooperate on terrorism and drug issues, but Moscow has offered only lukewarm support for the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. So far, Russia has limited itself to providing its territory for U.S. military transit, turning down requests to provide helicopters and training for pilots or to train counter-narcotics police.

Nevertheless, the export of Afghan drugs is an issue of paramount concern to Russia, which now has 2 million opium and heroin addicts. Moscow had been urging the U.S. military to take action against Afghan drug labs, which process unrefined opium into heroin or morphine.

Nine helicopters and 70 men were involved in the raid, said Russian anti-narcotics chief Viktor Ivanov, adding that his agency told the U.S. where the labs were located. Ivanov said four Russians were involved in the raid, and that Russia may increase the number of its drug agents in Afghanistan in the future.

Photos shot at the scene and provided by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency show men in military uniform carrying metal canisters across a dusty gray moonscape. The drab

landscape is broken only by the occasional tree. Stacks of brown sacks lie near basins with white residue and oil drums painted black.

An Afghan official said the labs were in a narrow valley high up in the mountains. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Four labs were shut down in the operation, which involved three branches of Afghan law enforcement as well as NATO, the U.S. and the Russians, said U.S. embassy spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden in Kabul. A DEA press release said the raid originally targeted one lab but then found three others hidden by vegetation.

In addition to the 932 kilograms of heroin, agents seized 156 kilograms of opium in the raid in the village of Zerasari, part of the district of Achin. It takes about 10 tons of opium to make one ton of heroin.

U.S. officials said the heroin had a street value of \$55.9 million. Ivanov gave much higher figures: He was quoted by Russian media as saying the seized drugs were worth at least \$250 million and probably even up to \$1 billion. Last weekend Ivanov used an interview with The Associated Press to criticize the U.S. for not taking action to stem a flow of Afghan heroin into Russia. He said that months ago he provided U.S. officials in Kabul with the coordinates of 175 laboratories where heroin is processed but that the U.S. failed to act.

In the interview, he said American officials had told him they were awaiting U.S. military approval to raid the labs.

On Friday, a senior Russian lawmaker hailed the drug bust. Mikhail Margelov, the Kremlin-connected head of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of Russian parliament, said it showed that efforts to reset U.S.-Russian relations are finally being backed by real action.

Analysts said it will take fundamental reforms rather than just drug busts to shut down Afghanistan's multibillion dollar drug industry. U.S. officials have argued that destruction of poppy fields would drive Afghan farmers who had no other employment into the arms of the Taliban.

One fundamental problem are links between drug networks and officials in the Afghan government, rated the second most corrupt in the world.

"A broad range of authoritative international sources indicates these networks are at times aided by Afghan government officials who are little bothered by the Western-led counternarcotics efforts," analyst George Gavrilis argued earlier this year in a paper for the Council on Foreign Relations.

"Afghanistan's drug industry remains intact and very likely to undermine new anti-corruption efforts by international donors and agencies," wrote Gavrilis, an assistant professor of international relations at the University of Texas at Austin. □





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**Explosive packages reflect new Yemen terror threat****AHMED AL-HAJ  
KIM GAMEL****Associated Press**

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — The discovery of two explosive-laden packages sent from Yemen and aimed at U.S. and Western interests represents a new escalation in the terror threat emanating from this violence-wracked, poverty-stricken Mideast country. President Barack Obama stopped short of linking the failed plot to al-Qaida in Yemen, but U.S. officials said privately they were increasingly confident that was the source. Obama's counterterrorism adviser John Brennan called the Yemeni wing the most active al-Qaida franchise.

Militants from the terror network have been building up their presence for several years in this nation of 23 million people, finding refuge with tribes in the remote mountain ranges where the government has little control. But the Yemeni-based al-Qaida offshoot rose to the fore of U.S. concern in December, when it allegedly masterminded a failed Christmas Day attempt to blow up a passenger jet as it landed in Detroit.

The Obama administration branded the group a global threat and has dramatically stepped up its funding of the Yemeni government to uproot it although there has

been little visible progress. Friday's discovery of two explosive packages addressed to Chicago-area synagogues and packed aboard cargo jets from Yemen was certain to heighten those fears.

Obama called the coordinated attacks a "credible terrorist threat." Preliminary tests indicated the packages contained the powerful industrial explosive PETN, the same chemical used in the Christmas attempt as well as shoe bomber Richard Reid's effort to blow up a trans-Atlantic flight in 2001, U.S. officials said.

Obama told reporters in Washington that the packages, which were found in England and Dubai, originated in Yemen. He said the group known officially as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula "continues to plan attacks against our homeland, our citizens, and our friends and allies," although he did not directly blame them in the latest attack.

Obama said he had spoken to Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, about the incident and pledged continued cooperation with the country. Authorities believe about 300 al-Qaida members or cells operate in Yemen.

For its part, the Yemeni government expressed astonishment at reports linking it to the packages but

said in a statement it was cooperating with the U.S. and international investigations. The statement warned against "rush decisions in a case as sensitive as this one and before investigations reveal the truth."

The lukewarm response underscored the dilemma faced by the fragile Yemeni government, which has found itself caught between U.S. pressure to fight the militants and its dependence on the loyalty of unruly tribes that harbor the extremists.

Yemeni authorities also fear too harsh a fight against al-Qaida will alienate a deeply conservative Muslim population where anti-American sentiment is widespread. As a result, the main Yemeni tactic is often to negotiate with tribes to try to persuade them to hand over fugitive militants.

Around 50 elite U.S. military experts are in the country training Yemeni counterterrorism forces — a number that has doubled over the past year. Washington is



In this frame grab taken from WABC-TV video, an Emirates airliner lands at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, Friday Oct. 29, 2010, after having been escorted from the Canadian border to New York City by two military fighter jets. U.S. officials said there is no known threat associated with the plane, but it was being escorted to JFK as a precautionary move. Authorities on Friday were investigating whether suspicious packages shipped aboard cargo planes from Yemen to the U.S. were part of a terrorist plot.

*Associated Press*

funneling some \$150 million in military assistance to Yemen this year for helicopters, planes and other equipment, along with a similar amount for humanitarian and development aid. San'a says its troops are fanned out around the country, hunting

for militants.

Despite the efforts, al-Qaida gunmen have been bold enough to carry out assaults in the capital, San'a, including a failed ambush on a top British diplomat in her car earlier this month. □

**November 2010**

Contact:

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# Protesters blame U.N. base for cholera in Haiti

JONATHAN M. KATZ,

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Hundreds of protesters who blame U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal for Haiti's widening cholera epidemic marched on a rural military base Friday to demand the soldiers leave the country. Demonstrators waving tree branches and carrying anti-U.N. banners walked from the central plateau city of Mirebalais several miles to the gates of the base perched above a tributary of the Artibonite River — a waterway identified by health officials as a conduit for the infection.

The protesters chanted "Like it or not, they must go" as the Nepalese soldiers and other U.N. peacekeepers remained inside.

Cholera has sparked widespread fear in Haiti, where it was unknown before the outbreak was first noticed by authorities Oct. 20. As of Friday morning, more than 4,700 people have been hospitalized and at least 330 have died, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. There has been no scientific conclusion on the origin of the epidemic, which became evident when dozens of patients began dying with high fevers and watery diarrhea at a hospital in the town of St. Marc a few miles from the last stretch of the river.

Experts say the disease was



A U.N. peacekeeper watches protesters outside the Nepal U.N. base in Mirebalais, Haiti, Friday Oct. 29, 2010. Protesters who blame U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal for Haiti's widening cholera epidemic marched to the rural military base Friday to demand the soldiers leave the country.

Associated Press

likely imported. Until this month there had not been a diagnosed case of cholera in Haiti as far back as records go in the mid-20th Century, said Claire-Lise Chaignat, head of the global task force on cholera control at the World Health Organization. The disease is pandemic in parts of Africa and Asia. Speculation among Haitians is increasingly centered on the Nepalese peacekeeping base near Mirebalais, much of it being stoked by politicians including the town's mayor — a Senate candidate — ahead of the Nov. 28 national elections. Cholera is endemic in Nepal and the country suffered outbreaks this summer. The current troop contingent arrived in shifts starting Oct. 9, after the outbreak in their home country and shortly

before the disease broke out in Haiti. Cases have been concentrated downriver along the Artibonite.

The U.N. mission in Haiti responded to the rumors with a statement Tuesday saying that sanitation around the base was in line with the standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations.

But when Associated Press journalists visited Wednesday, they found open and cracked pipes behind the base, with U.N. military investigators taking samples.

There was an overpowering smell of human waste, and a pipe leading toward a septic tank was leaking foul-smelling black fluid toward the river.

The waste is dumped across

the street in open pits that residents, who live a few yards away, said often overflow into the Artibonite tributary running below. The contractor, Sanco Enterprises SA, says the pits are sprayed with bleach. The U.N. mission says no cases of cholera have been found among the Nepalese soldiers, but it is not clear if, how or when testing was carried out. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says people are often infected with the disease without showing symptoms.

The spokesman for the U.N. mission did not respond Friday to requests for further comment.

On Friday, protesters called on the Haitian government to kick out the Nepalese soldiers.

"The Nepalese brought this disease to the center of Mirebalais," said Ernst Exilume, a 25-year-old student. "We have no water to drink. We have no choice but to drink the water from the river."

International aid groups had made hygiene and the control of disease priorities after the Jan. 12 earthquake, especially as millions of Haitians found themselves homeless and living in tarp and tent settlements around the capital. Throughout the year banners imploring people to wash their hands have hung over streets and on walls.

Scientists from the CDC are retesting samples to determine the nature of the cholera strain at a molecular level, which could help pinpoint its origin, and hope to have results to share with Haiti's Ministry of Health sometime over the weekend, CDC spokesman Tom Skinner told the AP.

Tests can indicate the areas of the world where this cholera strain has been found, but the results may not reveal its national origin or how it got to Haiti, he said.

The U.S. agency is not specifically investigating in the area of the base or taking environmental samples, another CDC spokesman, David Daigle, said.

"For sure it is going to be important to know where the germ came from. I don't know if we are going to get an answer," Chaignat, the WHO official, said. □



# Aruba TODAY

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# Suicide bomber kills 21 north of Baghdad

MAZIN YAHYA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber wearing an explosives belt killed at least 21 people, mostly Shiites, on Friday in a town north of Baghdad, shattering what had been weeks of relative calm, the town's mayor said.

The blast in the town of Balad Ruz emphasizes the delicate nature of Iraq's security gains and comes as the country is approaching its eighth month without a new government since the March elections.

The suicide bomber blew himself up inside a popular cafe in the town of Balad Ruz, 45 miles northeast of Baghdad as people were gathered to play dominoes and drink tea, said the town's mayor, Mohammed Maaruf.

An additional 65 people were injured, he said.

The neighborhood where the explosion occurred is home to many Faily Kurds, a small sect of ethnic Kurds following the Shiite branch of Islam, and many of the dead were Shiites. Although there was no immediate claim of responsibility, blasts targeting Shiites are often the work of Sunni insurgents trying to stir up sectarian problems.

While scattered violence occurs almost daily in Iraq, Friday night's blast broke what has been a time of comparative quiet across Iraq. The last such major attack came Sept. 19 when twin bombings in Baghdad killed at least 31 people.

Diyala province, with its mixed population of Sunnis,

Shiites and Kurds, was once one of the most volatile in Iraq but recent years has seen a drop in violence.

Also on Friday, the New York-based Human Rights Watch denounced the Kurdish regional government's investigation into the slaying of a Kurdish journalist critical of authorities in Iraq.

Freelance journalist Sardasht Othman's handcuffed and bullet-ridden body was found near the restive northern Iraqi city of Mosul and authorities concluded he had been killed by insurgents.

Many Kurds in the autonomous region where he lived, however, blamed the government for his killing and staged dozens of huge protests demanding the perpetrators be brought to justice.



In this Wednesday, May 12, 2010 file photo, a man wears tape over his mouth to protest the killing of 23-year-old journalist Sardasht Othman in Sulaimaniyah, 160 miles northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. The man holds a sign that reads, in Kurdish, "Where is the law of writing?" A human rights group on Friday Oct 29 2010 denounced a regional government's investigation of the slain Kurdish journalist in Iraq and demanded that officials open a new, independent inquiry.

"The Kurdistan government needs to get to the bottom of this killing with an open and independent inquiry that will include looking into allegations of government involvement," said Joe Stork, deputy Mideast director of the New York-based Human

Rights Watch.

Kurdish government officials have denied any involvement in Othman's death and in a report in September concluded that he had ties to Sunni militants in nearby Mosul who ultimately killed him. □

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# Testimony ends in Guantanamo 'child soldier' case



In this photo of a sketch by courtroom artist Janet Hamlin and reviewed by the U.S. Department of Defense, Canadian Omar Khadr is seen on the third day of his sentence trial at Camp Justice on Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base in Cuba, Wednesday Oct. 27, 2010.

*Associated Press*

By BEN FOX

**Associated Press**

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba – Testimony ended Friday in the sentencing hearing for a former teenage al-Qaida fighter with the defendant asking a jury to consider that U.S. interrogators suggested he could be raped in prison.

A lawyer for Omar Khadr, the youngest detainee at Guantanamo, read a statement from the defendant as their final piece of evidence. It described an incident shortly after his capture in Afghanistan in 2002 in which interrogators told him a fictional story about an uncooperative Afghan youth who was sent to an American prison and raped.

"I know it does not change what I did, but I hope you will think about it when you punish me," Khadr said.

"This story scared me very much, and made me cry."

Former Army Sgt. Joshua Claus admitted in an April pretrial hearing that he told the fictional rape story to get Khadr to talk. At the time, Khadr was hospitalized from serious wounds, including two gunshots to the torso and shrapnel in his eye, from a four-hour firefight with U.S. forces at an al-Qaida compound in southeastern Afghanistan. Claus pleaded guilty to charges of maltreatment and assault involving other detainees and was sentenced to five months in

prison.

Khadr's lawyers previously disclosed the story about the rape threat as they sought unsuccessfully to prevent prosecutors from using the prisoner's statements to interrogators, arguing that it was part of a broader pattern of abusive treatment that amounted to illegal coercion. But the judge said there was no credible evidence that he was coerced and ruled that he would allow a series of incriminating interviews.

Khadr, now 24, pleaded guilty to five war crimes charges including murder for throwing a grenade that mortally wounded Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Speer. The jury of seven military officers is expected to begin deliberating his sentence Saturday.

Under the rules of the military tribunals, the sentence is capped at a length of time specified in a still-sealed plea bargain agreement. It is reportedly eight years, and he is to be transferred back to his native Canada after one more year at Guantanamo. If he had been convicted on even one of charges he could have faced a life in prison.

Khadr's defenders say he was a child soldier pushed into militancy by his radical father and should have been sent home long ago for rehabilitation. But prosecutors charged him with war crimes, arguing that he was not a legitimate soldier when he was part of an al-Qaida explosives cell in Afghanistan. □

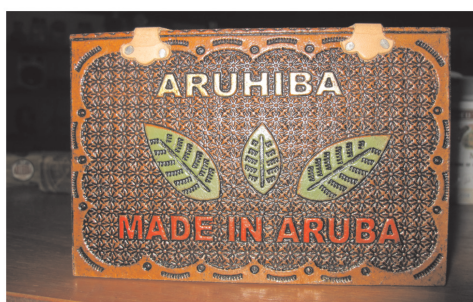
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five



cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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### NFL Preview



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre works through a drill with his injured left ankle taped during practice at the team's NFL football training facility in Eden Prairie, Minn. Favre returned to practice Friday, Oct. 29, 2010, for the first time this week. His status to play Sunday at New England is uncertain.

*Associated Press*

### Packers, Jets present tough tasks for each other

NEW YORK (AP) — Returning from a bye and rolling with a five-game winning streak, the New York Jets are well-rested, healthy and eager to play the banged-up Green Bay Packers in the NFL on Sunday.

The Jets are tied with New England and Pittsburgh for the best record in the league at 5-1, and they'd be undefeated but for a one-point loss to Baltimore in Week 1. Coach Rex Ryan has talked for months about how his team is headed for the Super Bowl, and his bold prediction looks increasingly more like a possibility than just bluster.

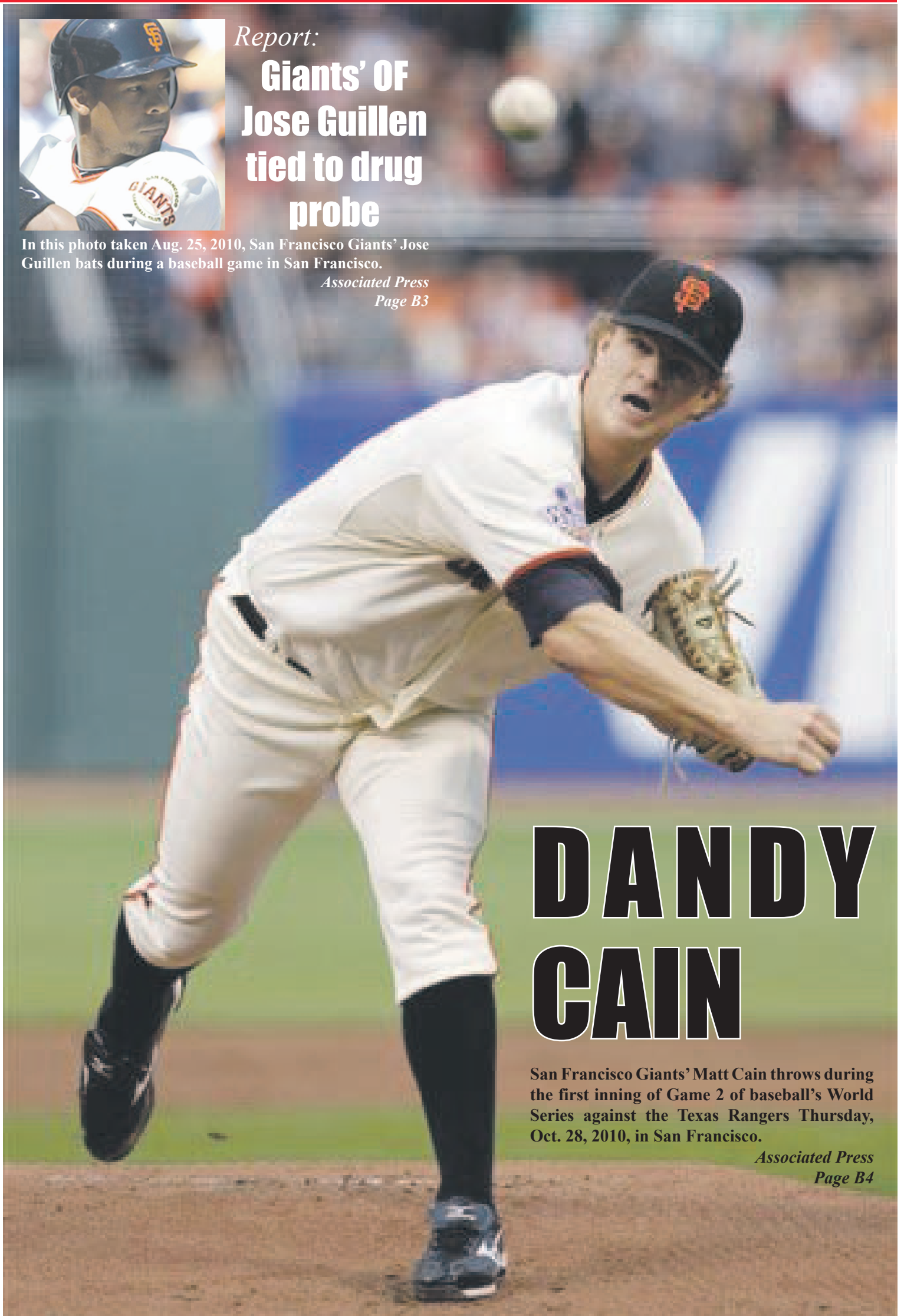
*Continued on Page B5*



### Report: Giants' OF Jose Guillen tied to drug probe

In this photo taken Aug. 25, 2010, San Francisco Giants' Jose Guillen bats during a baseball game in San Francisco.

*Associated Press  
Page B3*



## DANDY CAIN

San Francisco Giants' Matt Cain throws during the first inning of Game 2 of baseball's World Series against the Texas Rangers Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010, in San Francisco.

*Associated Press  
Page B4*



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# Selig willing to consider more playoffs next year



**Boston Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield, left, smiles with baseball commissioner Bud Selig after Wakefield received his 2010 Roberto Clemente Award before Game 2 of baseball's World Series between the San Francisco Giants and the Texas Rangers Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010, in San Francisco.**

*Associated Press*

**RONALD BLUM**  
AP Sports Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig is willing to consider expanding

the playoffs as early as next year.

Speaking on Thursday before Game 2 of the World Series, Selig said a larger postseason might not have to wait for

collective bargaining with the players' association.

Union head Michael Weiner said earlier this week that any potential changes adding playoff teams wouldn't be implemented until at least the 2012 season.

"Obviously, we have to talk to the union," Selig said. "These are all details we have to work out. While I've spent a lot of time thinking about it, we have a lot of different opinions on the subject — how to do it, if to do it."

Since 1995, eight of the 30 baseball teams have made the playoffs. In the NFL, 12 of 32 teams make the playoffs. In the NBA and NHL, 16 of 30 teams advance to the postseason.

In recent months, Selig has appeared increasingly open to

adding more wild-card teams. "We've got to work out a lot of detail, see what interest there is and why, and then we'll take it to all of the constituencies," he said.

Weiner said his members are open to more playoff teams and to possibly extending the division series to a best-of-seven as part of negotiations on the labor contract to replace the one expiring Dec. 11, 2011.

Selig said expanding the first round would be difficult because of weather concerns — he mentioned how it had snowed in Minneapolis this week. "We'll look at everything," he said, "but look, I'm already concerned." Also speaking before the game, Rangers president Nolan Ryan said he was in favor of eliminating the designated hitter in order to standardize rules between the leagues.

"It's a big challenge with the players' association because you would be taking a high-paid player off a team if you did away with the DH," the

Hall of Fame pitcher said.

Selig said AL teams remained in favor of the DH and NL teams were against adding it. Changes to the DH are not on management's collective-bargaining agenda.

"That is not in the long list of things that I have discussed with clubs," Selig said.

Selig said baseball will discuss adjustments to instant replay for umpires during the offseason. Given the lack of controversial calls in the World Series opener, he didn't want to talk about it now.

"I don't want to jinx anything," he said.

He spent part of Thursday meeting with baseball's bankers, and told them the World Series matchup was a demonstration of the sport's competitive balance.

"It is the most important manifestation of what we set out to do in the '90s — create as much competitive balance as you can," he said. "When the San Francisco Giants are playing against the Texas Rangers, that says it all, and it's great for baseball." □

## MLS Roundup

# Colorado beats Columbus 1-0

**COMMERCE CITY, Colorado (AP)** — Pablo Mastroeni's first-half goal gave the Colorado Rapids a 1-0 home win over Columbus Crew in Thursday's opening leg of their MLS Eastern Conference semifinal.

Mastroeni, the veteran former U.S. international midfielder, and the only player remaining from the club's last playoff appearance in 2006, netted a cross from Omar Cummings.

The second leg is in Columbus on Saturday. The Crew was on the attack early, with Emmanuel Ekpo shooting narrowly wide in the sixth minute.

Colorado took over and ruined a chance when Cummings overhit a pass to Conor Casey on a two-on-one break in the 10th minute. Cummings missed a second chance in the 21st minute, sliding a shot well wide of the left post.

Colorado broke through in the 24th. Cummings' pass was deflected in front of the goal and right to Mastroeni, who easily beat Columbus goalkeeper Andy Gruenebaum. Gruenebaum was making his MLS debut, replacing William Hesmer, who broke his shoulder in the last regular-season game on Sunday.

The Rapids had chances to increase their lead. Cummings missed with a header in the 31st minute and Wells Thompson hit the side netting after breaking free in the 39th minute. The hosts had a 10-1 shot advantage in the first half and that domination continued after the interval.

Cummings misfired on a header early in the second half. Guillermo Barros Schelotto was



**Colorado Rapids midfielder Pablo Mastroeni (25) celebrates his goal against the Columbus Crew with teammates Marvell Wynne (22) and Wells Thompson (15) during the first half of an MLS soccer first-round Eastern Conference playoff match Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010, in Commerce City, Colo.**

*Associated Press*

left free long enough to take a shot from 25 yards out in the 56th minute, but it landed in the stands beyond the goal.

The Crew threatened an equalizer late, with Colorado goalkeeper Matt Pickens forced into some big saves. He swatted away a shot in traffic in the 77th minute and blocked Andy Iro's header in the 84th minute. □

## Armstrong, RadioShack fined over Tour jersey row

**AIGLE, Switzerland (AP)** — Lance Armstrong and his RadioShack team were fined by cycling's governing body on Friday for wearing unauthorized jerseys on the final stage of the Tour de France.

The International Cycling Union fined Armstrong and his teammates 2,500 Swiss francs (\$2,540; €1,830) each for trying to wear black jerseys with "28" on the back to support his Livestrong Foundation.

RadioShack did not ask for permission to change its usual team uniform and a dispute with race officials delayed the stage start by 20 minutes in July. Armstrong's team manager Johan Bruyneel was fined 10,000 Swiss francs and suspended for two months next season. The UCI ruled he insulted race officials by writing a message on Twitter that they "don't need brains." □



**In this July 25, 2010, file photo, Lance Armstrong of the United States, rides towards the Arc de Triomphe during the parade after the 20th and last stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Paris, France. Armstrong, his RadioShack teammates and team manager Johan Bruyneel were fined by the International Cycling Union on Friday, Oct. 29, 2010, because the riders wore unauthorized jerseys on the final stage of this year's Tour de France.**

*Associated Press*



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# Report: Giants' OF Jose Guillen tied to drug probe

JANIE McCAULEY

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— San Francisco Giants outfielder Jose Guillen, left off the team's postseason roster, is linked to a federal investigation into shipments of performance-enhancing drugs, The New York Times reported on its website Thursday night.

The story, citing several unidentified lawyers, said federal authorities told Major League Baseball they were looking into shipments of human growth hormone, allegedly sent to Guillen's wife.

That was just before the postseason began, The Times said. Guillen was left off the Giants' roster for all three rounds because of a nagging neck injury, according to manager Bruce Bochy.

A person in Major League Baseball confirmed the investigation to The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the probe was ongoing.

The Giants said they had no comment and Jay Reisinger, Guillen's attorney, declined comment in an e-mail. San Francisco was hosting the Texas Rangers in Game 2 of the World Series on Thursday night.

It was a bit of a surprise when Guillen wasn't included on the roster for San Francisco's first playoff series, against Atlanta. And while other Giants who were left off — including \$126 million

pitcher Barry Zito — have been around throughout the team's October run, Guillen has been curiously absent.

The 34-year-old Guillen has been tied to performance-enhancing drugs before. The San Francisco Chronicle reported in 2007 that he allegedly purchased more than \$19,000 worth of HGH, steroids and other drugs from the Palm Beach Rejuvenation Center between May 2002 and June 2005.

MLB suspended Guillen for 15 days following the report, then rescinded the penalty in May 2008 as part of a deal between players and owners to toughen the sport's drug rules.

Guillen has played for 10 teams since breaking into the big leagues with Pittsburgh in 1997. He is a .270 career hitter with 214 homers and 887 RBIs.

Guillen was suspended by the Angels for the last two weeks of the 2004 regular season and postseason for inappropriate conduct after expressing his displeasure with manager Mike Scioscia. After the year, Guillen was traded to the Washington Nationals.

In July 2008, Guillen got into a heated clubhouse exchange with Royals pitching coach Bob McClure, knocking over chairs before several players separated them before a game at Tampa Bay. Guillen also unleashed a profanity-filled tirade against his teammates that May.



In this Sept. 19, 2010, file photo, San Francisco Giants' Jose Guillen hits a bases-loaded two-RBI single against the Milwaukee Brewers in the fifth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Looking for more offense, the Giants acquired Guillen from the Kansas City Royals in a trade on Aug. 13.

He batted .266 with three homers and 15 RBIs in 42 games for the NL West champions.

In July, baseball implemented random blood testing for HGH in the minor leagues, the first professional sports league in the United States to take the aggressive step against doping.

Testing was limited to players with minor league contracts because they are not members of the players' association, which means blood testing is not subject

to collective bargaining. The players' association has long been against blood testing for HGH, though the union has discussed the issue with MLB. □

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# Cain gives Giants 9-0 win, 2-0 World Series lead

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco took a 2-0 lead in the World Series after Matt Cain pitched 7-2/3 scoreless innings to steer the Giants to a 9-0 win over the Texas Rangers on Thursday.

Cain's pitching had the Giants 2-0 up with two outs in the bottom of the eighth and the game still in the balance, when the home team rattled on seven runs as the Rangers bullpen suffered a meltdown. It was San Francisco's biggest innings in postseason history. Edgar Renteria homered in the fifth to put San Francisco ahead, and drove in three runs in all to give the Giants a series buffer heading into three games in Texas.

Rangers starter C.J. Wilson left the mound with a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand following a leadoff walk in the seventh. Juan Uribe added a run-scoring single against Texas reliever Darren Oliver.

San Francisco broke open the game as Rangers manager Ron Washington again made bullpen moves too late. Derek Holland relieved with a man on and forced in a run with three straight walks, and Mark Lowe forced in another run with yet another walk. Renteria followed with a



San Francisco Giants' Juan Uribe (5), Freddy Sanchez (21) and Edgar Renteria celebrate after Game 2 of baseball's World Series against the Texas Rangers Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010, in San Francisco. The Giants won 9-0 to take a 2-0 lead in the series.

two-run single to left. Pinch-hitter Aaron Rowand hit a two-run triple against Michael Kirkman, and Andres Torres doubled in a run, turning a tight game into a blowout. Forty of the previous 51 teams to take a 2-0 lead have gone on to win the title, including

seven straight and 13 of the past 14. The last to overcome a 2-0 deficit was the 1996 New York Yankees against Atlanta. The Giants have won each time they took a 2-0 lead: in 1922, 1933 and 1954. San Francisco improved to 11-0 at home against Texas

and got its third shutout in nine postseason wins. The Giants sent the high-octane Rangers offense to its first shutout since Sept. 23.

But after a day off, the Series will resume Saturday, for the first time in Arlington, Texas. Colby Lewis starts Game 3 for the Rangers against San Francisco's Jonathan Sanchez.

"I don't think we caught any breaks yet," Washington said. "We certainly don't feel like we're defeated. We're heading home. They took care of us in their ballpark, now we're headed to ours."

By the end of the game, the sellout Giants crowd was chanting "Sweep! Sweep!" And as some gleeful fans filed out, they told friendly ushers, "See you next year" — not anticipating the need for a possible return to San Francisco for games six and seven.

Giants manager Bruce Bochy was not as presumptuous.

"Now we're going in their ballpark," Bochy said. "I'm sure they're going to have a sense of confidence. We've been road warriors, so that's

what it's going to take right now."

Cain has pitched 21 1-3 innings in three postseason starts without allowing any earned runs. He joined the Giants' Christy Mathewson (1905) and Carl Hubbell (1933), the Yankees' Waite Hoyt (1921) and Detroit's Kenny Rogers (2006) as the only pitchers to allow no unearned runs in 20 or more innings in a single postseason. Cain credited rookie catcher Buster Posey.

"Buster's doing a great job of putting down the right fingers," Cain said. "He's been calling the right pitches." Cain did have to pitch out of trouble a few times, as Texas went 0 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

Ian Kinsler's drive leading off the fifth hit flush on the top of the fence, bounced up and was caught by Torres, who held him to a double. At first it was unclear whether the ball had gone over the wall, but relays showed the call was correct.

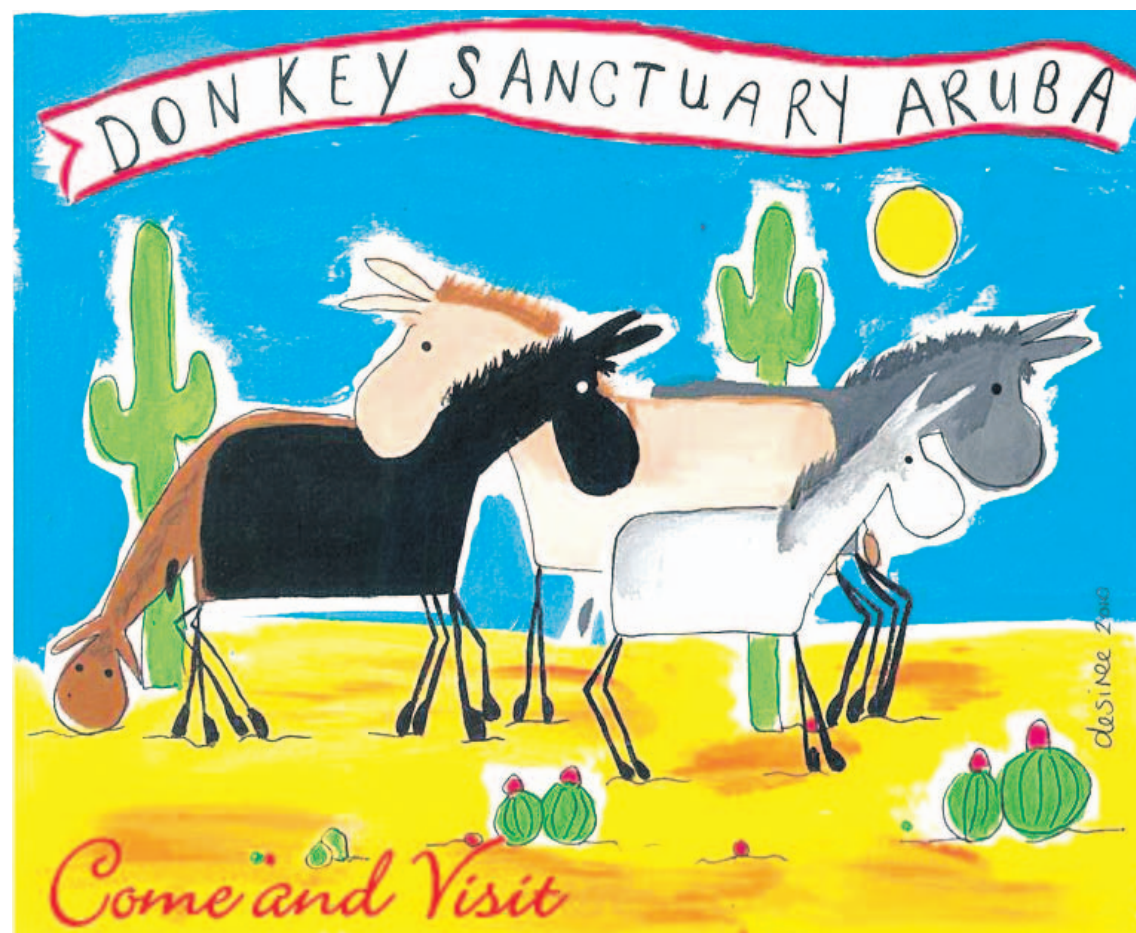
Kinsler was stranded when David Murphy lined to shortstop, Matt Treanor grounded to shortstop and — following an intentional walk — Wilson grounded weakly to first.

Renteria led off the bottom of the fifth by pulling a pitch down the left-field line, where it landed about eight rows deep. Renteria had gone 53 straight at-bats without a home run and had not homered at AT&T Park since July.

In the sixth, singles by Texas' Michael Young and Josh Hamilton followed by a wild pitch put runners at second and third, but Nelson Cruz fouled out and Kinsler popped out.

Washington made a few changes after a sloppy defeat in the opener. He benched Vladimir Guerrero, who made two errors in right field. Cruz shifted to his regular spot in right, with Murphy replacing Cruz in left. Treanor took over from Bengie Molina behind the plate.

Elvis Andrus and Cruz failed to get hits, stopping their 12-game postseason hitting streak. □





**NFL PREVIEW**

**Continued from Page B1**

"We're definitely hungry," right tackle Damien Woody said. "We're riding a nice winning streak and nobody wants to lose. Nobody wants to have that taste in their mouth."

The six-day break allowed two of the Jets' top defensive players to heal from injuries that hampered them through the early part of the season. Cornerback Darrelle Revis declared that his bothersome left hamstring was 100 percent for the first time since Week 1, and linebacker Calvin Pace appears to be close to a full go after missing the first four games with a broken right foot.

The Packers, tied for the NFC North division lead with Chicago, hope they launched a long run of success by beating Brett Favre and the archrival Minnesota Vikings last weekend. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers expects it, starting with himself.

"Last week was a big win for us," Rodgers says. "We did some better things on offense. Obviously, we're still not exactly where we want to be yet. ... I just think that there is a sense of urgency personally. I need to start to play a little bit better."

The Super Bowl champion New Orleans Saints are struggling, and just what they don't need is a matchup with the NFL's most physical team, the previous Super Bowl winners the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Saints are coming off a stunning lopsided loss to the Cleveland Browns and have the kind of problems the Steelers feast on.

With Reggie Bush and Pierre Thomas injured, the Saints haven't run the ball consistently and haven't been as effective beating pressure with screens, swing passes and check-downs. That has forced quarterback Drew Brees to be more conventional, and when a defense expects passes — in Pittsburgh's case, it might not even matter what is expected — that spells trouble.

"The disappointing part is you haven't seen the complete team since Week 2 when Reggie went down," Saints linebacker Scott Shanle says. "It absolutely has an effect. I mean, we do a good job of having guys who are backups come in and play good football, but there's a reason why Reggie Bush is Reggie Bush and Pierre Thomas has done what he's done."

The Indianapolis Colts' first Monday night game since

December 2006 is as close to a must-win as the Colts will have all season.

The Colts are 0-2 against AFC South division foes for the first time, and find themselves in the precarious position of needing to hold serve to get even with the visiting Houston Texans in the head-to-head category. The Texans ended a long losing streak to the Colts with a romp in the season-opener, and another win would give them their first season sweep and the inside track to dethroning the division champs.

"They've been a juggernaut in this division for years, and they've been our Achilles' heel," Texans running back Arian Foster said. "That (win) was only one game. You can't win anything with only one game. So it wasn't like we did anything."

The Texans must shore up a pass defense that ranks dead last in the league and is yielding nearly 320 yards a game. Houston might have a chance to do that because Colts quarterback Peyton Manning's receiving corps has been diminished by injuries.

Also on Sunday, it's Tennessee at San Diego, Minnesota at New England, Seattle at Oakland, Tampa Bay at Arizona, Buffalo



In this Oct. 11, 2010, file photo, New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez (6) gestures to fans after their 29-20 win in an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings in East Rutherford, N.J. The Jets have used a mix of solid play and luck to overcome some off-field distractions and streak into their bye-week break with a five-game winning streak.

*Associated Press*

at Kansas City, Miami at the league can't brag much Cincinnati, Washington about, Denver vs. San at Detroit, Carolina at St. Francisco at London. Off this week are Philadelphia, Louis, and Jacksonville Chicago, Atlanta, at Dallas. The NFL's international series Baltimore, Cleveland, and continues with a matchup the New York Giants. □

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St. Louis Blues center Patrik Berglund (21), of Sweden, is congratulated by Brad Boyes (22) and Erik Johnson (6) after Berglund scored against the Nashville Predators in the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010, in Nashville, Tenn. The Blues won 3-0.

*Associated Press*

## NHL Roundup

# Blues hand Predators first regulation loss

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — The St. Louis Blues handed the Nashville Predators their first regulation loss of the NHL season with a 3-0 win Thursday that tightened up a very competitive Central Division.

St. Louis goaltender Jaroslav Halak made 24 saves for his second shutout of the season and 11th overall, as the gap between first and last in the division was cut to two points.

Alexander Steen, Patrik Berglund and Matt D'Agostini scored for the Blues.

Nashville has lost four straight at home, dropping the first three in overtime.

### Kings 5, Stars 2

In Dallas, Alexei Ponikarovsky and Wayne Simmonds scored 9 seconds apart in the second period to help Los Angeles defeat Dallas.

Dustin Brown added a power-play goal for the Kings, Willie Mitchell scored short-handed, Jack Johnson had three assists, while goalie Jonathan Quick made 30 saves.

Justin Williams added a late empty-netter for L.A., which has won four straight in Texas.

Brad Richards and Brandon Segal scored for

Dallas.

The crowd was the smallest since the Stars moved to Dallas in 1993, with many fans staying home to watch the Texas Rangers in baseball's World Series.

### Avalanche 6, Flames 5

In Calgary, Chris Stewart scored three goals for his second NHL hat trick as Colorado took a thriller over Calgary.

Stewart has eight goals in 10 games this season. He also had three goals last March against St. Louis.

Daniel Winnik broke the 5-5 tie with 2:20 left.

Brandon Yip and T.J. Galiardi also scored for Colorado.

Niklas Hagman, Tim Jackman, Matt Stajan, Olli Jokinen and Alex Tanguay scored for Calgary.

**In other NHL** Columbus 3, Edmonton 2, SO; Boston 2, Toronto 0; Ottawa 5, Florida 3; Phoenix 4, Detroit 2; St. Louis 3, Nashville 0; Minnesota 2, Washington 1; Los Angeles 5, Dallas 2; and Colorado 6, Calgary 5. □

## NBA Roundup

# Magic cruises past Wizards



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard, right, is fouled by Washington Wizards guard John Wall while going up for a shot during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010. The Magic won 112-83. (

*Associated Press*

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Dwight Howard had 23 points and 10 rebounds to lift the Orlando Magic to an easy 112-83 victory over the Washington Wizards on Thursday, giving the NBA's newest arena a grand opening. Vince Carter had 18 points and Jameer Nelson scored 16

to help the Magic cruise to another blowout victory after a perfect preseason.

The No. 1 draft pick John Wall made his debut for Washington, finishing with 14 points and nine assists on 6 for 19 shooting in his first meaningful professional game. He showed flashes of stardom

but became just another spectator against Orlando. The Magic have much time to savor the Amway Center's opening. They get their first shot at LeBron James and the new-look Miami Heat down south Friday.

### Suns 110, Jazz 94

In Salt Lake City, Hakim Warrick and Steve Nash scored 18 points apiece to help Phoenix beat Utah.

The Suns led by as many as 18 points against a Jazz team that played with more intensity than during their 22-point season-opening loss at Denver on Wednesday. But in the end the Jazz still had trouble finding the basket.

Utah shot just 33.3 percent in the first quarter and 42.9 percent for the game, going 3-for-13 on 3-pointers while Phoenix made 10.

Al Jefferson scored 20 points to lead Utah.

Raja Bell also struggled in a game against his former team, scoring just seven points on 3 of 12 shooting. □

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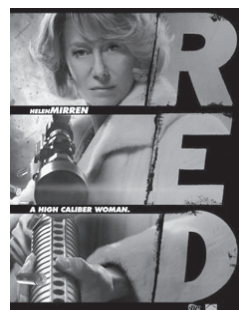
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# Iverson: 'My whole thing was being wanted'

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Former NBA MVP Allen Iverson signed a \$4 million, two-year contract with Turkish club Besiktas on Friday after waiting in vain all offseason for an offer from an NBA team.

"My whole thing was being wanted, being accepted by a ballclub. That was the most important thing," Iverson said after signing during a news conference at the upscale St. Regis Hotel in Manhattan.

"I had a great time playing in the NBA. Who knows if I ever will again?" Iverson said. "But I wanted to show everybody I can play at a high level, not just the NBA."

When the 11-time All-Star realized he wasn't wanted by the NBA, Iverson told his manager, Gary Moore, to begin looking at other leagues. He ultimately decided the Istanbul-based club was the best fit.

"I feel like it's a fresh start for me, and I just thank all these guys for giving me the opportunity," Iverson said, "a chance to get back on track with my basketball career."

Iverson is 17th on the NBA's career scoring list with 24,368 points, winning the MVP in 2001 when he led the Philadelphia 76ers to the finals. He spent 10 seasons in Philadelphia before bouncing through Denver and Detroit, ending up in Memphis last season.

He only played three games before returning for a second stint with the Sixers, where he averaged 13.9 points in 25 games. He took a leave of absence toward the end of the season to deal with some family matters, which he said on Thursday have been resolved.

"If those situations weren't better at this point in time, there's no way I would have made this decision," he said. "It was hard the last couple years to concentrate on basketball."

Iverson mostly blamed himself that no NBA teams were willing to give him a

shot.

One of the most instinctive scoring guards in league history, Iverson's prolific talent was offset by numerous run-ins with coaches and team officials, including his infamous "We're talking about practice" diatribe directed toward former Sixers coach Larry Brown. He's also had several legal problems that landed him on probation.

"A lot of not being on an NBA roster is my fault," Iverson said. "I made a lot of mistakes in my life that I'm not proud of, but I have to move on."

Wearing a black New York Yankees cap and decked out in diamonds on Thursday, Iverson almost seemed to be forcing a smile as he held up a Besiktas jersey along with team owner Yildirim Demiroren and executive board member Seref Yalcin. Dozens of members of

the Turkish media took photographs while Turkish music pounded inside the small hotel ballroom.

Just about the only thing familiar was the No. 3 on the jersey.

Iverson will begin play with his new team the week of Nov. 8, in a home arena that seats about 4,500 fans for a club that hasn't won the Turkish league since 1975.

Another American is in the squad, Mire Chatman, and it has an Australian center, A.J. Ogilvy. The rest of the team is made up of players from Turkey, Russia and other Eastern European nations.

"As far as I know, Allen is the first and greatest player to have a career in the NBA and come to Europe to play in Turkey," Demiroren said through a translator. "I hope this contract will be wonderful for both sides." □



Former NBA star Allen Iverson holds a jersey after announcing that he agreed to a two-year \$4 million contract to play for the Turkish basketball team Besiktas Friday, Oct. 29, 2010 in New York.

Associated Press

## Zvonareva beats Clijsters at WTA Championships

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Vera Zvonareva ended Kim Clijsters' nine-match winning streak 6-4, 7-5 at the WTA Championships on Friday and secured the year-end No. 2 ranking for the first time.

Zvonareva, yet to drop a set after three group matches in the elite event, ensured she will play No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki in the semifinals on Saturday. Clijsters will face Sam Stosur in the other semi. Earlier, Elena Dementieva surprisingly announced her retirement after bowing out to French Open champion Francesca Schiavone 6-4, 6-2. Then Victoria Azarenka, the replacement for Serena Williams, earned her first victory of the tournament by 6-4, 6-1 over the ailing Jelena Jankovic.

Zvonareva, who lost to Clijsters 6-1, 6-2 in the U.S. Open final, used a strong net presence and powerful backhand to beat the Belgian for third time since Clijsters came out of retirement last year.

The first set went back and forth until Zvonareva's powerful return was netted by Clijsters. Clijsters jumped out to 3-1 in the second but Zvonareva stormed back to tie it 5-5. She led 6-5 on a powerful backhand and raced to 40-0 on her way to winning the final game.

"It has been an amazing week so far. I had three tough matches," Zvonareva said. "They are all great players here and to win against them is nice."

Clijsters partly blamed her first loss since August on her three-set victory over Victoria Azarenka that finished in the early hours of Friday and left her exhausted.

"You know, obviously last night's match was pretty tough, and kind of just felt it today," Clijsters said. "So obviously I'm going to have to feel much better, and then just going to have to get my energy back. I kind of just felt flat out there today."

Dementieva and Schiavone were already eliminated from

semifinals contention before their match, and Dementieva didn't reproduce the form she showed in beating Stosur the day before.

Schiavone's consistent returns and net play forced Dementieva into hitting returns long and wide, and the Italian was in no mood to finish her first singles appearance in the tournament without a win. At one point Schiavone won 10 of 15 games. Dementieva committed 28 unforced errors. Schiavone was happy to be heading to the Fed Cup final between Italy and the United States in San Diego next week with a win.

"I played a little bit better and was little bit more focused and confident than Elena," she said.

Dementieva ended her 13-year career, featuring 16 singles titles, two Grand Slam singles finals and the Beijing Olympics gold medal, in an emotional on-court ceremony surrounded by her rivals. She said she had no regrets.

"It is so emotional. It is so



Elena Dementieva of Russia holds a trophy as she stands next to her mother Vera, rear left, after announcing her retirement following her WTA Tour Championships tennis match against Francesca Schiavone of Italy, during the 4th day of Qatar WTA Tennis Championship in Doha, Qatar, Friday Oct. 29, 2010. Dementieva announced her retirement from tennis at the WTA Championships on Thursday.

Associated Press

hard to say goodbye. I am going to miss you so much," Dementieva said.

Azarenka repeated her win over Jankovic at the same stage on the same court a year ago. □



# Goodell supports European expansion for NFL

*NFL in Europe*



In this Sept. 19, 2010 file photo, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell talks with Cleveland Browns coach Bryan Cox before a football game, in Cleveland. The National Football League's political action committee has made almost \$600,000 in campaign donations in its rookie election cycle, building goodwill among lawmakers that could come in handy in the event of a lockout next season.

*Associated Press*

**MATTIAS KAREN**

**AP Sports Writer**

LONDON (AP) — American football is in Europe to stay — and with an even bigger presence if NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has his way.

When the San Francisco 49ers take on the Denver Broncos at Wembley Stadium on Sunday, they'll be the latest teams that went across the Atlantic to do their part in helping the league grow its international fan base. And despite the long travels and disrupted team schedules such a trip brings, the NFL is charging ahead with plans to increase the number of games it plays overseas.

This Sunday marks the fourth regular-season game to be played in London, and Goodell said the success of the previous three sellouts has buoyed his hopes to succeed with his ultimate expansion goal — having a full-time

franchise in London.

"Each year, the different barometers indicate that our popularity continues to rise," Goodell said at an annual sports conference the NFL organizes together with The Economist magazine in London. "I think the next step will be multiple games (in Europe). And if that's successful then I think the idea of a franchise here is realistic."

He just has to get the players and teams on board first, which may not be all that difficult.

Like the teams that came before them, the Niners and Broncos have only had good things to say about their trans-Atlantic trip — focusing more on the team-building opportunities than the jet lag and time spent away from home. "I've never been out of the country, so this is definitely a good experience and opportunity," Niners cornerback Nate Clements

said. "And I look to take advantage of this and make the most of it."

Of course, it's not exactly easy to bring the full NFL circus abroad.

Traveling logistics are one of the biggest challenges for teams coming over for games, highlighted by the Niners (1-6) and Broncos (2-5) choosing drastically different strategies for how to approach Sunday's matchup.

San Francisco arrived on Monday and has spent the week in a five-star hotel in the countryside outside London, getting adjusted to the time difference and practicing on a field with the same wet and slippery conditions expected at Wembley.

The Broncos, meanwhile, chose to stay home longer and only arrived Friday.

"Everyone was kind of like walking zombies off of the flight," Broncos offensive lineman Chris Kuper said. "Once we catch up on sleep we should be fine. We got two days to catch up on sleep."

The Niners have the added disadvantage of being listed as the home team, meaning they get one less game to play in San Francisco. But with the city turning the spotlight to the Giants playing in the World Series, it's not a bad time for the struggling football team to explore new surroundings.

"When you look at where we are right now as a team, it is nice to be able to get away and come here, and be able to sort of regroup as a team internally," head coach Mike Singletary said.

Goodell acknowledged it's "painful" for teams to give up

a home game, and said that's one of the reasons the NFL is considering expanding its regular season schedule to 18 games. That would let teams have eight home games even if they go abroad.

Sending teams so far to play in front of foreigners may seem extreme, but Goodell insists it's the best way to connect with international fans — especially because most of them never have a chance to play the sport themselves.

"That is one of our challenges, how do we promote a sport that is not played by the youth in each of those markets?" he said. "But I think that's where media and bringing our game to those markets meets those challenges. We've seen it here in this marketplace, we've seen it in Japan, Mexico and Canada." □

## Stern again predicts NBA will one day be in Europe



NBA commissioner David Stern walks around the basketball court before the Los Angeles Lakers' home opener basketball game against the Houston Rockets in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010.

*Associated Press*

**TIM REYNOLDS**

**AP Sports Writer**

MIAMI (AP) — NBA Commissioner David Stern is again discussing the possibility of the league's expansion to Europe, predicting there will be a five-team division there within the next 10 years.

Stern made the remarks Friday at a luncheon with Miami business leaders.

It's not a new notion, but Stern's words nonetheless represented a strong stance that the NBA is more committed than ever to expansion and further globalizing the game. "It's a wonderful topic, because 10 years ago, I said, 'Oh, it's inevitable, it'll happen in 10 years,'" Stern said, speaking to business leaders. "And now what I'm

saying is, 'It's inevitable, it'll happen in 10 years.' But in terms of globalization, we're going to see a desire for franchises in Europe — and in about 10 years, you'll send me a postcard."

Stern also recently said the NBA plans a regular-season game in London sometime before the city hosts the 2012 Olympics. The talk of European growth comes at a somewhat awkward time, with some in the league fearing that eliminating current teams could be an option as the NBA and players' association continues trying to bridge a wide gap in collective bargaining talks. Just last week, Stern suggested on a conference call with reporters that contraction may be on the table, but said he won't spend "a lot of time on it."

"I think we'll have a division and I think the Heat will play in Boston one night and then they'll go to Paris and spend a couple days on the Champs-Elysses shopping and relaxing," Stern said. □



# 'I'm on Everest:' High-speed Internet at base camp

KATMANDU, Nepal – How's this for a Facebook status update: "About to start scaling Mount Everest."

Should they have time to check e-mails, climbers attempting to scale the world's highest peak now have access to high-speed Internet near its 17,000-foot (5,200-meter) base camp, the last gathering point on the journey to the top.

Ncell, a subsidiary of Swedish telecom company TeliaSonera, announced Friday that they have set up seven 3G base stations in the Everest region, allowing climbers and trekkers to access wireless Internet and make video calls, for example over Skype.

Thousands of trekkers from all over the world walk to the base camp every year. Hundreds of mountaineers go further up the slopes of the peak to the 29,035-foot (8,850-meter) summit.

In the past, they were forced to carry heavy satellite equipment to the base camp to transmit information and images. Trekkers and villagers were able to talk on cell phones at lower levels, but could not access the Internet.

NCell official Pasi Kostinen said they hope to soon expand the service in the region, where a few thousand people live and 30,000 visit each year.

NCell is a private company based in Nepal. The majority of its shares are controlled by foreign investors, with TeliaSonera having the largest stake. □



**FILE -** This Oct. 21, 2005 file photo shows Mount Everest from an aerial view taken over Nepal. Climbers attempting to scale the world's highest peak now have access to high-speed Internet near its 17,000-foot (5,200-meter) base camp, the last gathering point on the journey to the top. Ncell, a subsidiary of Swedish telecom company TeliaSonera, announced Friday Oct. 29, 2010 that they have set up seven 3G base stations in the Everest region, allowing climbers and trekkers to access wireless Internet and make video calls, for example over Skype.

(AP Photo/Jody Kurash, File)



By JAYMES SONG,  
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU – The Social Security numbers, grades and other personal information of more than 40,000 former University of Hawaii students were posted online for nearly a year before being removed this week, The Associated Press has learned.

University officials told the AP that a faculty member inadvertently uploaded files containing the information to an unprotected server on Nov. 30, 2009, exposing the names, academic performance, disabilities and other sensitive information of 40,101 students who attended the flagship Manoa campus from 1990 to 1998 and in 2001. A handful of students from the West

Oahu campus were included in the security breach.

UH-West Oahu spokesman Ryan Mielke said there was no evidence that the faculty member acted maliciously or that any of the information was used improperly. The faculty member, who retired from the West Oahu campus in June, was conducting a study of the success rates of Manoa students, and believed he was uploading the material to a secure server.

The university apologized for the incident, saying it was investigating how it happened. It was notifying the former students by e-mail and letters, and has also alerted the FBI and Honolulu police.

"We are troubled (and) determined to notify everyone

## APNewsBreak: University posts info of 40K students

according to law and committed to do everything possible in the future to prevent this from happening," UH system spokeswoman Tina Shelton said.

The incident is the third major information breach in the UH system since last year. Each time, university officials promised it was strengthening its network systems and working to identify other potential security risks.

In the latest breach, UH immediately removed the exposed files and disconnected the server from the network when it was notified of the information breach on Oct. 18 by Aaron Titus, information privacy director of Liberty Coalition, which is a Washington-based policy institute.

Google cleared its caches late Thursday, some 11 months after the information was first put online. "During that time, theoretically, anybody with an Internet connection could have had access to it. How likely that is ... is anybody's guess,"

said Titus, who discovered the files under a Google search.

Titus said the university's statement that it has no evidence that the personal information was used maliciously was somewhat misleading.

"Of course they don't have any evidence of misuse, because the bad guys wouldn't tell them if they had," Titus said.

UH President M.R.C. Greenwood has discussed the issue with all the chancellors in the 10-campus system, emphasizing the policy regarding security and protection of sensitive information.

UH has setup a call center and website for individuals who may have been affected. Those who might be affected by the breach were advised to obtain a credit report and to review financial statements to look for unusual activities.

The university system's other major breaches include this summer's incident involving the personal information of 53,000 people — including

40,000 Social Security numbers — who had business with the Manoa parking office. Last year, more than 15,000 students at Kapiolani Community College were warned after an infected computer compromised their information on financial aid applications.

"There is absolutely no way that we can say this will never happen again, but we are taking every step that's possible to make sure it doesn't happen," which includes upgrading security systems and additional training, Shelton said.

Titus said the university could've caught the latest mishap much earlier and quickly blocked any access if it regularly scanned its server for personal information, which takes software that's readily available.

"That wheel has been invented at low cost," Titus said.

UH believes problems will lessen with time because of changes in the use of Social Security numbers. □



# Movie “Kill Octopus Paul” takes look at soccer betting

By Roya Stevens

BEIJING (Reuters) – Shortly after the passing of the world’s beloved eight-legged soccer soothsayer, a Chinese film called “Kill Octopus Paul” is challenging the truth



In this Oct. 27, 2010 photo provided by Major League Baseball, teen singer Justin Bieber is shown on the set of the music video for his song “Never Say Never,” at Angels Stadium, Anaheim, Calif., to debut during the pre-show of Game 3 of the World Series, which is against the San Francisco Giants and the Texas Rangers.

(AP Photo/Major League Baseball)

## Bieber to debut music video during World Series

NEW YORK – Game 3 of the World Series will be targeted to teenyboppers, thanks to Justin Bieber.

Major League Baseball says Bieber will debut the music video for his song “Never Say Never” on Saturday during Game 3’s pre-show on Fox.

The best-of-seven series is between the Texas Rangers and the San Francisco Giants. The Giants won the first two games of the series in San Francisco.

Game 3 will take place in Arlington, Texas. Former “American Idol” champion Kelly Clarkson will sing the national anthem in her home state.

The 16-year-old Bieber sports gear from both teams in the “Never Say Never” clip, which was shot at Angels Stadium in Anaheim, Calif. □



Two year-old octopus Paul, the so-called “octopus oracle” predicts Spain’s 2010 soccer World Cup final victory over The Netherlands by opening and choosing a mussel, from a glass box decorated with the Spanish national flag instead of a glass box with the Dutch flag, at the Sea Life Aquarium in the western German city of Oberhausen July 9, 2010.

behind the oracle octopus who correctly predicted World Cup results.

Director Xiao Jiang’s fictional thriller follows a group of Chinese soccer enthusiasts who travel to South Africa to uncover an international betting cartel conspiracy.

The plot twists and turns as viewers find out that the legend of Paul, the visionary mollusc, was fabricated and manipulated to aid a match-fixing scheme and

international betting ring.

“I really like soccer and I love the World Cup. But I know the World Cup had a lot of people betting on it,” said Xiao, after a media preview in Beijing on Thursday.

“So when I started to think about making this movie, I wanted to film about people who because of betting encountered some sticky situations.”

English-born Paul made headlines across the globe

after he correctly forecast how Germany would fare in seven matches, before his oracular abilities were challenged ahead of the final between Spain and the Netherlands. He picked Spain, the winner. Before each game, two containers of food were placed in Paul’s tank, each one adorned with the flag of the teams that were about to compete. The container Paul chose first was seen as his pick.

While Xiao said she did not believe in Paul’s soothsaying abilities herself, his fame was key in gaining greater global interest for the World Cup.

“As far as I know, a record of Paul choosing 8 for 8 correctly does not exist. And an octopus cannot be as intelligent as a human being,” she added. “So this is a perfect plan, and this plan has fooled people all over the world. This is because people all over the world really like Paul because Paul is very cute.”

Paul died of natural causes this week at the Oberhausen Aquarium.

The movie will be released on November 30. □

## Verdicts end chapter in tabloid story of Smith



Dr. Sandeep Kapoor leaves court after he was acquitted on all charges in the Anna Nicole Smith drug conspiracy trial in Los Angeles on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010.

(AP Photo/Jason Redmond)

By LINDA DEUTSCH,  
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES – A final chapter in Anna Nicole Smith’s made-for-tabloids life story has ended with a jury absolving her doctor of prescribing excessive drugs and convicting a psychiatrist and Smith’s lawyer-boyfriend of conspiring to fake names on prescriptions.

The nine-week trial brought the aura of glamour surrounding the late Playboy model to the courtroom through photos and videos

of the beautiful blond who starred in her own reality TV show.

In death, she still managed to be the star of the high profile trial.

Howard K. Stern, who was Smith’s manager, lawyer and lover, was acquitted Thursday of seven of the 11 charges originally lodged against him. Superior Court Judge Robert Perry had already dismissed two charges against Stern. The jury found him guilty of two conspiracy counts and specified they were for obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and giving a false name for a prescription.

Dr. Khristine Eroshevich was convicted of conspiring with Stern on the fraud and false name allegations and was convicted on two separate counts of unlawfully prescribing and obtaining Vicodin through fraud and use of a false name.

Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, 42, who prescribed an array of sedatives and opiates to Smith, was acquitted of prescribing excessive drugs and prescribing to an addict.

He hailed his acquittal as a triumph for the medical field of pain management.

“This is not just a victory for me, but for patients everywhere who suffer chronic pain,” an emotional Kapoor said outside court.

His lawyer Ellyn Garofalo said it also was a victory for Smith.

“The jury found she was not an addict,” Garofalo said. □



In this undated photo released by CBS, James ‘Jimmy’ Wall, Captain Kangaroo’s neighbor ‘Mr. Baxter’ on the children’s show and longtime stage manager for CBS News, is shown at the Director’s Guild of America and N.Y. Headquarters in New York. Wall died at his New York City home on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010 after a short illness. He was 92.

(AP Photo/CBS, Mark Mahaney)

## James Wall, Captain Kangaroo’s ‘Mr. Baxter,’ dies

NEW YORK – James Wall, Captain Kangaroo’s neighbor “Mr. Baxter” on the children’s show and longtime stage manager for CBS News, has died. He was 92.

CBS News says Wall died Wednesday in New York City after a short illness.

The former vaudevillian joined the popular children’s show in 1962 as a stage manager before persuading the show’s producers to create its first black character in 1968.

He played Baxter and another recurring roll on the show until 1978.

Wall was a stage manager for many CBS broadcasts over the years, including “60 Minutes,” “Face the Nation,” and the US Open Tennis Championships.

In 1994, Wall was honored with an achievement award by the Director’s Guild of America. □





# Sick of campaign ad avalanche? TV stations aren't

By ANDREW VANACORE,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — For TV viewers, this cutthroat election year is a riot of attack ads and media saturation made possible by big-money donors. For TV stations, it's a stimulus package.

One research group expects TV political spending to hit a record \$3 billion. The windfall may continue well past Election Day because regular advertisers are getting squeezed out of the schedule and could spend their ad budgets later. Coming out of a recession that put some broadcasters in or near bankruptcy protection, political spending is emerging as a critical — but temporary — source of revenue.

Several factors created the upsurge: tea party enthusiasm, self-financed millionaire

candidates, an unusually high number of toss-up races and a Supreme Court ruling in January that eased rules on corporate campaign donations. Ad rates are going up overall because political campaigns are taking up much of the commercial time. Station managers say many regular advertisers aren't able to buy ads now. That frees up money to spend later.

"The money is much stronger than we anticipated, and we thought it would be pretty big," says Chris Bailey, who manages ABC affiliate WOLO in Columbia, S.C. His station is benefiting from a particularly expensive House race, one where Rep. Joe Wilson — famed for his "You lie!" outburst during last year's State of the Union address — is fighting to keep his job.

The Campaign Media Analysis Group, a unit of the consulting firm Kantar Media, projects that spending on political television ads will hit \$3 billion this year. Not only would that top a record \$2.4 billion spent during the last midterm elections in 2006, but it would also surpass the \$2.7 billion spent in 2008, when both congressional and presidential campaigns poured cash into TV ads.

The political boon is showing up across the industry. Political advertising revenue should account for more than 11 percent of the total at local broadcast stations this year, according to Magna Global, a unit of Interpublic Group of Companies that tracks ad spending. That's up from 7 percent in 2006.

Darrin McDonald, general manager of Fox affiliate

KVVU in Las Vegas, says political revenue for the region's TV stations is on track to hit \$30 million this year, compared with \$22 million in 2008. (He declined to offer specific figures for his own station.)

That's all the more welcome in a state where economic troubles have taken a big bite out of local advertising budgets. In Nevada, home prices have fallen more than 50 percent from their highs — among the worst in the nation. The state still has an unemployment rate of 14.4 percent, almost five percentage points above the national average of 9.6 percent.

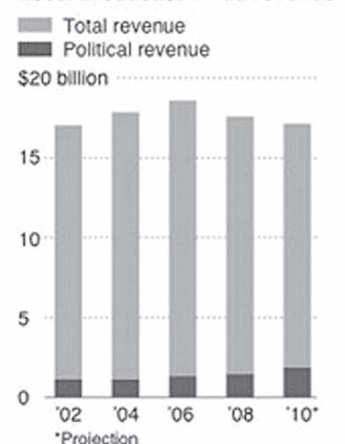
"Political advertising has been a gigantic Band-Aid for this market," McDonald says.

He can largely thank Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

## Political ad boom

Local TV stations have benefited from this year's boost in political advertising, resulting from many contentious campaigns.

Local broadcast TV ad revenue



SOURCE: Magna Global AP

Graphic charts local broadcast TV ad revenue and the portion of that revenue from political advertising.

and tea party challenger Sharron Angle.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, a campaign finance watchdog group, the candidates and outside interest groups have spent more than \$58 million combined. Much of that went to television. That's about seven times what Reid and his GOP rival at the time spent in 2004.

Reid-Angle is one of 47 tossup races in the House and Senate, compared with 35 tight races around this time during the 2008 campaign and 25 back in 2006, according to the Cook Political Report.

The tea party can't take all the credit for helping to revive the local TV business this year.

The Supreme Court in January struck down restrictions on how corporations and unions can spend money in elections. Evan Tracey, chief operating officer of the Campaign Media Analysis Group, says it could end up adding \$100 million to \$200 million in television spending this year, or about 3 percent to 7 percent of the projected total. □



FILE - In this Sept. 30, 2010 file photo, traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, in New York.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

By STEPHEN BERNARD,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stock wavered Friday after a report on economic growth did little to reassure investors about the health of the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell about 20 points in midday trading.

Gross domestic product, the broadest measure of the nation's economy, grew at a 2 percent annual pace in the third quarter. That was in line with economists' expectations and only slightly better than the 1.7 percent growth rate during the second quarter. Signs of meager growth come as investors grow more cautious heading into next week's midterm elections and are uncertain about the size of economic stimulus measures the Federal

## Stocks waver as GDP grows 2 percent in 3Q

Reserve is expected to announce next week.

Normally such slow GDP growth would have driven stocks much lower. But signs of weak economic expansion provide further support for the Fed's anticipated stimulus plan.

"Because GDP was so lackluster, we don't see the Fed pumping the brakes" on its plan, said Tony Zabiegala, a partner at Strategic Wealth Partners.

Stocks rose sharply during the first half of October as expectations mounted that the Fed would start buying Treasury bonds to drive interest rates lower. That, in turn, is supposed to spark spending and lending. In recent days, however, the size of the bond-buying program has been questioned, putting a market rally on hold.

John Apruzzese, a partner and portfolio manager at Evercore Wealth Management, said reaction in anticipation in the program is typical of the market.

"This is a classic situation where all the market movement is done in anticipation," Apruzzese said.

The market could be stuck in a holding pattern until the Fed wraps up its meeting Wednesday where it is expected to announce details about the bond-buying program.

A day before the Fed completes its meeting, voters will head to the polls for the midterm elections.

Traders have been betting that Republicans will at least take control of the House of Representatives, which could slow government action. □



# Groups moving forward to develop AIDS gel



Activists distribute red ribbons and light up candles as they commemorate victims of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, during a flashmob in St. Petersburg May 16, 2010.

By Maggie Fox,  
Health and Science Editor  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Groups developing a gel to protect women from the AIDS virus say they are moving ahead to develop the product that was hailed as “groundbreaking” after a study on its effectiveness

was released in July. The developers, who met last week with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, said the FDA informed them it would only require a limited amount of new information about the gel’s safety and efficacy before considering licensing the

product. The gel, containing Gilead Sciences AIDS drug tenofovir, reduced HIV infections in women by 39 percent over two and a half years in a trial in South Africa that was called “groundbreaking by the World Health Organisation. The FDA would require more information on whether the gel works and is safe, but will help speed up the process, said Dr. Henry Gabelnick, executive director of CONRAD, one of the groups developing the gel.

“They gave it what is called fast-track designation,” Gabelnick said in a telephone interview. “That means you can report data on a rolling submission -- you don’t have to wait and put everything together. Then they have six months to review the data.” The need for such a gel is compelling -- most infections with the AIDS virus are in Africa and most new cases are among women infected during sex with men. The human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS infects 33 million people globally and has killed 25 million. There is no vaccine and no cure.

Condoms can protect women and men but many African men refuse to use them and often a married woman is trying to conceive a child but risks being infected by her husband. A gel, cream or drug-releasing ring called a microbicide could help protect against HIV while allowing a woman to get pregnant, and, if necessary, she could use the product without letting her partner know.

**SECOND TRIAL**  
CONRAD, a division of the Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, was a partner with the Centre for Programme Research for AIDS in South Africa (CAPRISA) and U.S.-based Family Health International on the study. Gilead has licensed tenofovir for use in the gel and researchers were stunned by the findings of the study, presented to an AIDS conference in Vienna in July.

“We still have to get a final report from the CAPRISA study,” Gabelnick said. But in the meantime, a second study, called VOICE, is under way. “We are trying to do things simultaneously to the extent that it could be done,”

Gabelnick said. “We are working with partners in South Africa to establish an eventual manufacturing site and distribution network.” VOICE, which stands for Vaginal and Oral Interventions to Control the Epidemic, is being run by the Microbicide Trials Network with U.S. government funding and aims to confirm the safety and efficacy of the gel. The FDA will want to see results from VOICE, due in 2013 or 2014, before considering approval of the gel. It is possible, Gabelnick said, that South African authorities will want their own approval but Gabelnick said CONRAD was working with a South African company -- he would not say which one -- to lay the groundwork for making the gel as part of a public-private partnership. The FDA has also asked for data on how the gel works in adolescents and women past menopause. Separately, the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine is testing the tenofovir gel in men who have sex with other men, who may be infected rectally. □

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# Pfizer recalls more U.S. lots of smelly Lipitor

WASHINGTON – Pfizer Inc is recalling two more lots of Lipitor, the world's largest selling prescription drug, after chemicals used in wooden pallets were found in some bottles that had an "uncharacteristic odor." The drugmaker said on Friday that customer reports about

the odor prompted the recall of about 38,000 bottles. Pfizer recalled other lots of its flagship drug in August and October. Including the recalls announced today, Pfizer has recalled 368,000 bottles of the statin drug because of the contamination.

Lipitor is expected to garner more than \$12.1 billion in 2010 global sales, according to Thomson Reuters data. It faces generic competition in 2011. Pfizer said that in its investigation, it found a very low level of the chemical 2, 4, 6-tribromonophenol in a

sample bottle. The chemical is used on some wood pallets. Such pallets are used for holding cartons ready for shipment. Pfizer said the bottles used to hold Lipitor had been supplied by a third party bottle maker. Pfizer said the recalled lots had been packaged and shipped before changes to curb the smell were implemented in August. Pfizer has banned the use of treated pallets.

Over the past two years, Johnson & Johnson has recalled millions of bottles of over-the-counter drugs tainted with odors from chemically-treated pallets. Pfizer shares were down 1 percent at \$17.39 compared with 0.5 percent for drugmakers overall on the NYSE Arca Pharmaceutical Index. □

# H1N1 Flu Linked to Surge in Pneumonia Complication

The H1N1 flu pandemic was associated with a sharp rise in the number of children with a serious bacterial infection called empyema, a new study shows.

Empyema, an infection in the pleural tissues surrounding the lungs, frequently requires a chest tube or surgery to drain infected fluid from the chest. Empyema most often occurs as a complication of pneumonia.

Researchers studied data on children diagnosed with empyema at Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City from 2004 to 2009, and found a large increase in the number of cases from May to June 2009.

Twenty-one cases of empyema were diagnosed in those months, nearly double the average of 10.8 cases during the same time of year from 2004 to 2008.

The number of cases peaked in June 2009, when doctors diagnosed 12 cases, compared with an average of 3.5 cases in June of other

years.

The increase in empyema cases in the spring and summer of 2009 coincided with a severe outbreak of H1N1 flu in Utah, when 604 children were diagnosed with swine flu and 117 of them were hospitalized.

All the children diagnosed with empyema from May to June 2009 had a flu-like illness before diagnosis and most of those with confirmed influenza were infected with H1N1, the researchers found.

The study appears in the October issue of the Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal.

The findings highlight the need to keep children up to date with recommended influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, and the importance of prompt antiviral drug treatment for patients with influenza signs and symptoms, said study leader Dr. Krow Ampofo, of the University of Utah Health Sciences Center, Salt Lake City, and colleagues. □

# FDA rejects highly-anticipated diet drug Qnexa

By MATTHEW PERRONE, AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON – Federal health regulators have decided not to approve an experimental diet pill called Qnexa, which had been touted by many experts as the most promising weight-loss drug in more than a decade.

The drug's maker, Vivus Inc., said in a statement Thursday that the Food and Drug Administration declined to approve the drug in its present form. The agency asked for more study results and additional information on its possible health risks, including major cardiovascular events and risks for women of childbearing potential.

The FDA did not ask for any new clinical studies, but more may be required if the agency's concerns aren't addressed, Vivus said.

The company plans to respond to the FDA in about six weeks.

"We remain confident in the efficacy and safety profile of Qnexa demonstrated in the clinical development program and look forward to continue working with the FDA towards the approval for the treatment of obesity," Vivus CEO Leland Wilson said in a statement.

Its shares added 5 cents to \$6.18 in aftermarket trading Thursday. The stock added 5 cents to \$6.13 during the regular session.

Vivus, based in Mountain View, Calif., is one of three small drugmakers racing to win approval for their weight-loss drugs.

Many analysts picked Qnexa as the most promising contender because of the high level of weight loss reported in company studies: On average, patients lost more than 10 percent total body mass. That compared to weight loss of under 5 percent with drugs

currently on the market, like Roche's Xenical.

But Qnexa's outlook took a significant hit in July, when a panel of experts assembled by the FDA voted 10-6 to not recommend the drug's approval. Panelists said the drug was associated with a number of dangerous side effects, including suicidal thoughts, heart palpitations, memory lapses and birth defects.

With rates of obesity and diabetes rising globally, doctors say new weight-loss drugs are needed, though the drug class has a history of safety problems.

Vivus is the second weight-loss drug rejected by the FDA in the past week. On Saturday, Arena Pharmaceuticals announced that the agency declined to approve its drug lorcaserin, citing tumors seen in rats during early stage testing. □

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# UN biodiversity meeting ends with agreements

By MALCOLM FOSTER,  
Associated Press

TOKYO – Representatives to a U.N. conference on biodiversity emerged from marathon talks early Saturday with agreements to protect the world's species and ecosystems from pollution, overexploitation and habitat destruction.

Delegates to the 10th meeting of the U.N. Convention on Biodiversity agreed to protect 17 percent of the world's land areas and 10 percent of oceans by 2020, one of 20 targets, participants said.

Overcoming divisions between rich and poor countries, members also agreed on a system to share access to and benefits of genetic resources such as plants whose extracts have been developed into medicines — a key sticking point that had threatened to doom the entire two-week meeting in Nagoya, southwest of Tokyo.

But delegates pressed toward reaching an agreement, wanting to avoid the kind of collapse that befell U.N. climate talks last year.

“At a certain point in the evening, it looked like it was all going to fall apart, so this is good news,” said Nathalie Rey, an oceans policy adviser with Greenpeace International. “I would’ve liked to have seen more ambitious targets, especially on protected areas. But an agreement is better than no agreement.”

One of the conference's key goals is to set measurable targets that will slow or halt the rate of extinctions and damage. Scientists warn that unless action is taken to prevent such biodiversity loss, extinctions will spike and the intricately interconnected natural world could collapse with devastating consequences, from plunging fish stocks to less access to clean water.

Host nation Japan proposed a compromise text Friday to break a logjam in the prickly area of sharing genetic resources, called access and benefits-sharing, or ABS, in U.N. parlance. □



Delegates show their exhaustion during the plenary meeting at the U.N. Convention on Biodiversity meeting in Nagoya, Japan, Friday, Oct. 29, 2010. Delegates from more than 190 countries struggled Friday to break a deadlock on setting ambitious goals to preserve animals, plants and ecosystems, raising the prospect that the two-week U.N. meeting might end in failure.

(AP Photo/Kyodo News)

## Poisoned Halloween Candy: Trick, Treat or Myth?

Robin Nixon

Despite what all the warnings may lead parents to believe, there has never been a documented case of a stranger poisoning kids' Halloween candy.

Every October for at least 60 years, phantom portraits of the evil Halloween humbug have been passed on by the media and word of mouth. Parents hear accounts of children dying, clutch their fists to their chests and issue mandates about not eating a single bite

of sugar until all candy has been thoroughly inspected, preferably by magnifying glass.

But the evening's sweet fun is likely being needlessly spoiled. Researchers such as Joel Best of University of Delaware, who followed up on nearly 100 stories of candy contamination, have found that such claims almost always turn out to be tall tales, often told by the children themselves. Best published his results in “Threatened Children:

Rhetoric and Concern About Child-Victims” (University of Chicago Press, 1993).

It really is a myth that, every October, “strangers are getting ready to poison the candy,” said Aaron Campbell, a professor of pediatrics at Indiana University and co-author of “Don't Swallow Your Gum! Myths, Half-Truths, and Outright Lies about Your Body and Health” (St. Martin's Griffin, 2009). As for all the warnings, “they are, to some extent, fear-mongering,” Campbell told LiveScience.

There has been exactly one documented case of a child being directly poisoned by Halloween candy, Carroll said. In 1974, an 8-year-old died after sucking on a Pixy Stix laced with cyanide. But the poisoner was not some mysterious Grim Reaper posing as a harmless neighbor. Nope, it was good ol' Dad.

In another case, a 5-year-old decided to try his uncle's heroin, and with no one around to give him pointers, he overdosed and died. The family then sprinkled heroin into the child's Halloween candy stash, in hopes of using the candy myth to cover their own negligence. □

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## Dominicana adquiere aviones para combatir el narcotráfico

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - La Fuerza Aérea dominicana recibió el viernes los últimos tres aviones de un lote de ocho adquiridos a una empresa brasileña para combatir el narcotráfico.

El presidente Leonel Fernández detalló al recibir las aeronaves que los aviones Super Tucano A-29B permitirán a la Fuerza Aérea mejorar la vigilancia e interceptar naves usadas en el trasiego de estupefacientes.

El lote de ocho aeronaves fue adquirido, mediante un crédito del estado dominicano con el Banco Nacional de Desarrollo Económico y Social (BNDES) de Brasil, a la empresa Embraer por un costo total de 93,6 millones de dólares.

Un primer grupo de dos aviones fue entregado en enero, mientras que los otros tres llegaron al país el 24 de octubre. El jefe de la Fuerza Aérea, Israel Díaz, recordó que el territorio dominicano es usado como puente por narcotraficantes sudamericanos.

Díaz detalló que en 2008 la Fuerza Aérea detectó 123 vuelos ilegales con cargamentos de drogas valoradas en 2,000 millones de dólares.

En 2009 fueron detectados 62 vuelos ilegales de narcotraficantes, mientras que este año sólo ocho vuelos han sido interceptados, según el reporte de Díaz.

Las ocho aeronaves, con capacidad para portar misiles aire-tierra y aire-aire, también serán usadas en la vigilancia de la frontera con Haití.

Díaz indicó que la Fuerza Aérea envió a 39 pilotos para que fueran entrenados en Brasil. □

## Latinoamérica no verá grandes cambios tras elecciones EEUU

WASHINGTON (AP) - La política estadounidense en temas vitales para América Latina como inmigración y libre comercio se mantendrá prácticamente invariable tras los comicios de medio término la semana próxima, cuando los estadounidenses darán prioridad a la recesión económica al escoger legisladores y gobernadores.

Un grupo de expertos consultados por AP coinciden en señalar como poco probable que la próxima legislatura emita cambios sustanciales en temas regionales importantes, especialmente si los demócratas pierden la mayoría de la cámara baja como señalan numerosas encuestas.

“Los desacuerdos (entre demócratas y republicanos) sobre el déficit y las guerras (en Irak y Afganistán) serán más agudos, y ese desgaste

dificultará mucho que América Latina se convierta prioridad ante posiciones tan polarizadas” en el debate legislativo, dijo a AP la directora del programa latinoamericano del Centro Wilson Cynthia Arnson. “Los recursos políticos y financieros para los grandes cambios, simplemente no están”.

La falta de cambios no significa que Estados Unidos pierda relevancia en América Latina, opina Arnson. “Lo más visible es la cooperación con México, que ahora incluye a Centroamérica y el Caribe y que seguirá sin importar el ganador de la elección. También continuará el tono de una política multilateral consensuada entre Estados Unidos y la región”.

Un incremento de legisladores republicanos típicamente implicaría una

mayor probabilidad de que el Congreso apruebe los tratados de libre comercio con Colombia y Panamá. Pero el director del programa de las América del Centro de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos (CSIS por sus siglas en inglés) Peter DeShazo advierte que tal vez algunos republicanos triunfantes en esta elección sean más proteccionistas que sus predecesores copartidarios.

“¿Quiénes serán estos nuevos republicanos en la cámara baja? No creo que haya disciplina en el partido porque hemos visto varias tendencias. Hay que esperar a ver quiénes ganan para conocer sus posiciones”, dijo DeShazo.

Buena parte de los candidatos republicanos con posibilidades de triunfo el 2 de noviembre provienen del “Tea Party”. □

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